

CLASSICS *Illustrated*

Featuring Stories by the
World's Greatest Authors

No. 1 15¢

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

Alexandre Dumas



BUILD YOUR OWN LIBRARY

COLLECT AND PRESERVE YOUR COPIES OF

CLASSICS

Illustrated

IN AN ATTRACTIVE, PERMANENT BINDER



HANDSOME, durable, permanent—made to last a lifetime of handling. Each binder holds 12 books securely. Each is covered in beautiful, brown simulated leather and is richly imprinted in gold on both cover and backbone.

Simple instructions make binding possible in a matter of minutes.

GET YOURS **\$1.00** EACH
NOW POSTPAID
(\$1.50 in Canada)

Fill out coupon below or a facsimile and

MAIL NOW! TODAY!

GILBERTON CO., Inc. DEPT. S 101 FIFTH AVE. NEW YORK 3, N. Y.
IN CANADA: GILBERTON CO. (CANADA) LTD. BOX 311 TERMINAL "A" TORONTO 1, CAN.

Herewith is \$..... Please send binders, postpaid.

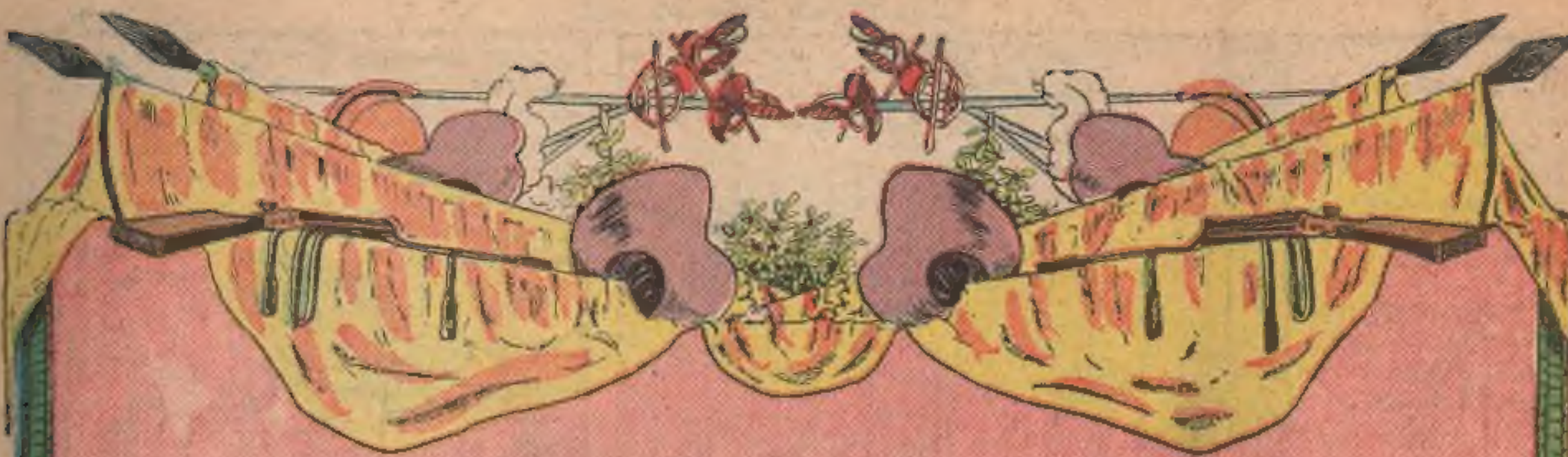
Name.....

(PLEASE PRINT)

Address.....

City..... Zone..... State.....

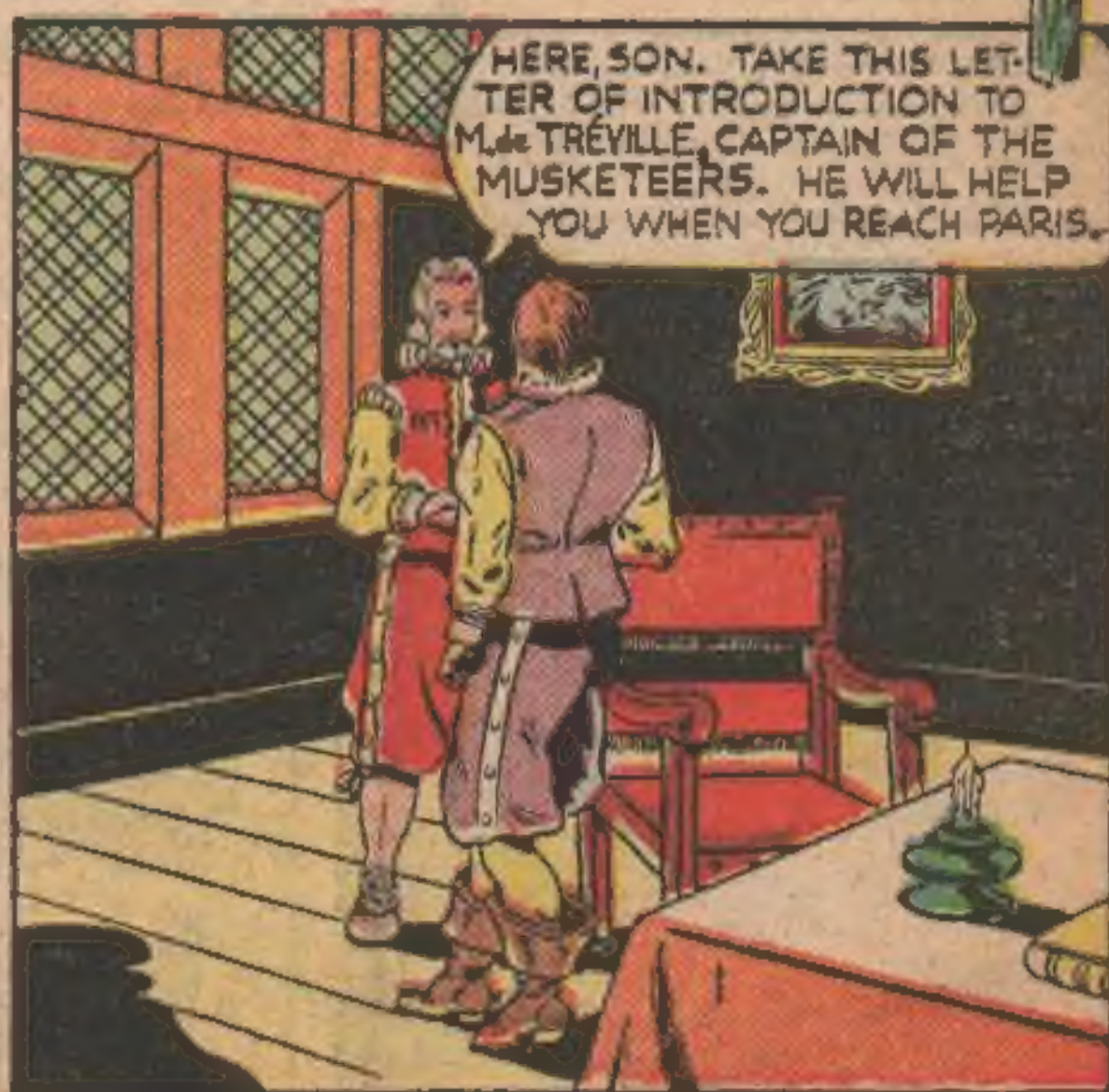
CLASSICS Illustrated... Published and Copyrighted by the GILBERTON COMPANY, INC., 101 Fifth Ave., New York 3, N. Y. All rights reserved, including the right to reproduce this book or portions thereof in any form. Printed in U. S. A.



The Three Musketeers

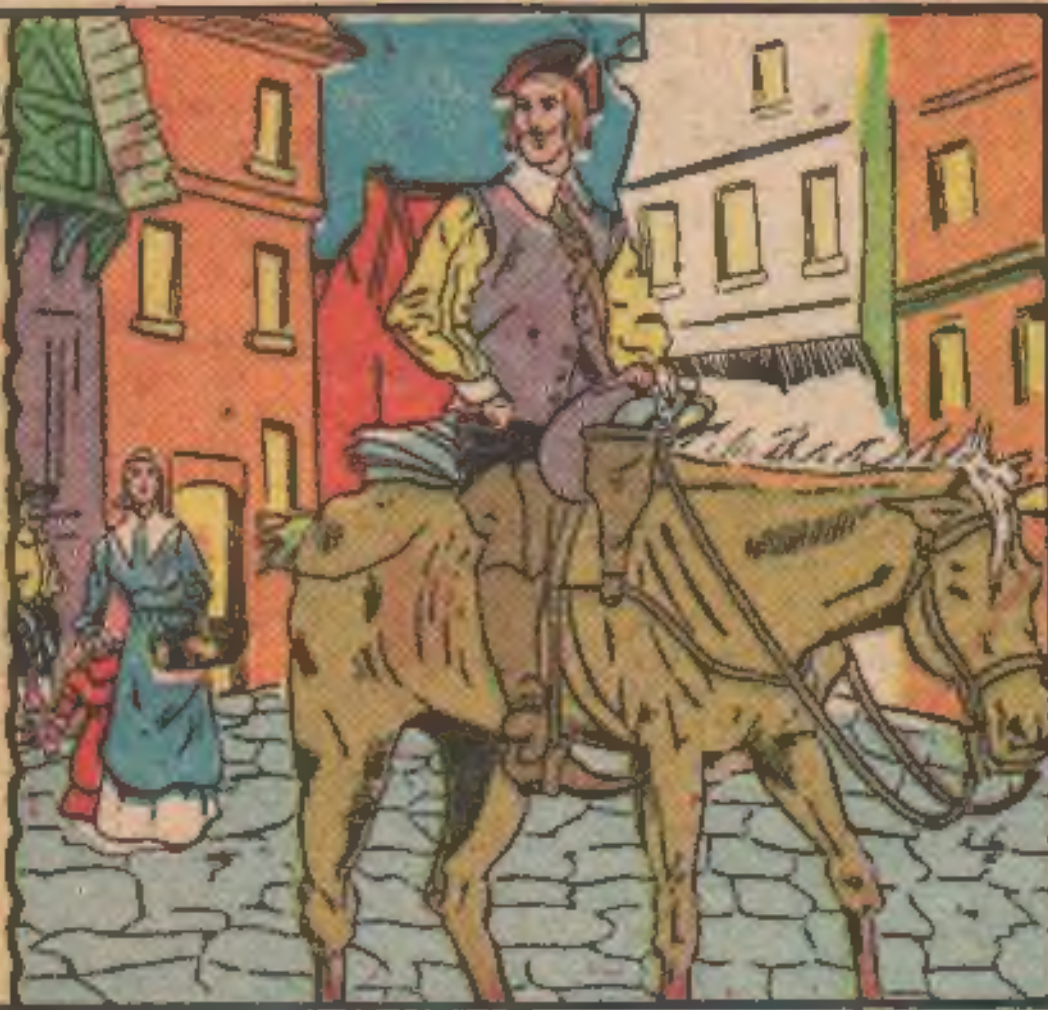
BY
*Alexandre
Dumas*

DRAWN
by
MALCOLM
KILDALE



D'ARTAGNAN, ON HIS WRETCHED YELLOW PONY, ENTERS THE CITY OF MEUNG AND HALTS BEFORE A HOTEL.

THE HOST IS STANDING AT THE DOOR WITH THREE MEN.



WHAT AN ORIGINAL COLOR! QUITE COMMON IN BOTANY, BUT UNTIL NOW VERY RARE AMONG HORSES — HA-HA!

I DO NOT LIKE THE LAUGHTER OF THAT MAN! ZOUNDS! HE IS RIDICULING MY HORSE!



YOU, SIR, MAY LAUGH AT MY HORSE BUT NOT AT ITS MASTER. ON GUARD, MASTER JOKER, LEST I RUN YOU THROUGH!

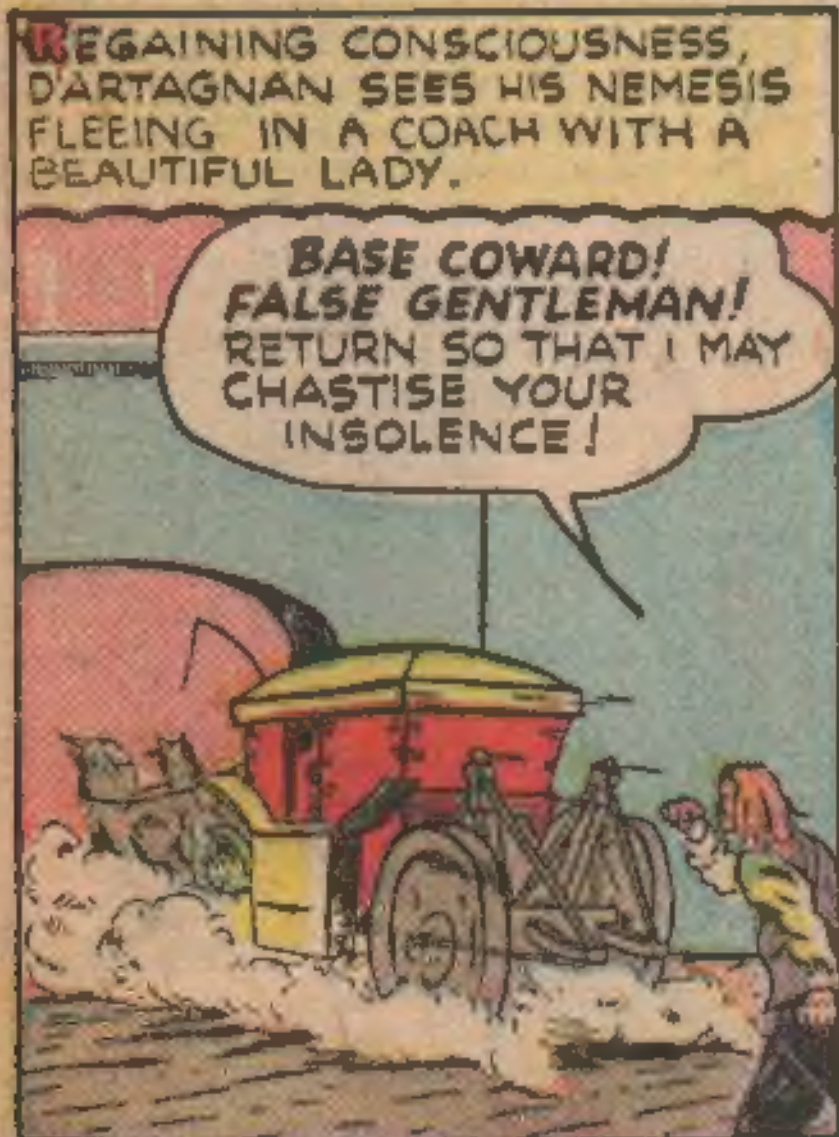


ATTACKED BY THE HOST AND THE STRANGER'S FRIENDS, D'ARTAGNAN IS BEATEN SENSELESS WHILE HIS OPPONENT WITHDRAWS.



REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS, D'ARTAGNAN SEES HIS NEMESIS FLEEING IN A COACH WITH A BEAUTIFUL LADY.

BASE COWARD! FALSE GENTLEMAN! RETURN SO THAT I MAY CHASTISE YOUR INSOLENCE!



MY LETTER, YOU THIEVING RUFFIAN! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY LETTER?

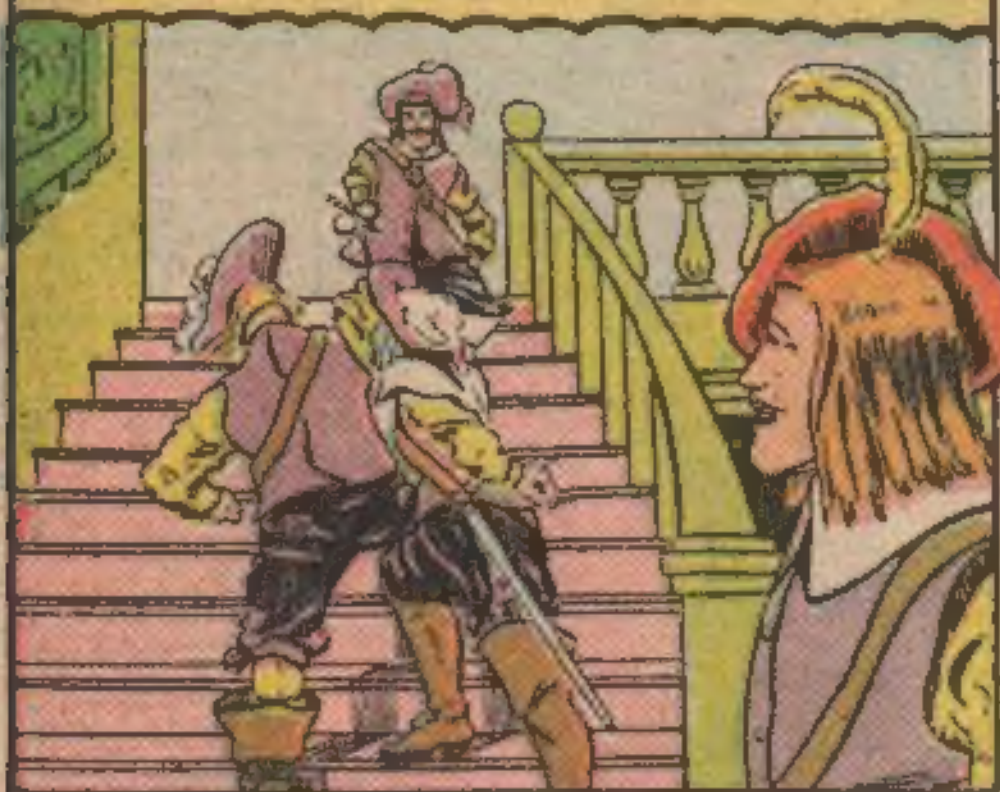
MERCY, MONSIEUR, I DO NOT HAVE IT. IT MUST HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY YOUR ADVERSARY WHILE YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS.



AFTER SELLING HIS HORSE, D'ARTAGNAN ARRIVES AT THE GATES OF PARIS ON FOOT.



D'ARTAGNAN PRESENTS HIMSELF BEFORE THE HOTEL OF M. DE TREVILLE, WHICH IS FILLED WITH DUELING, ROISTERING MUSKETEERS, AND REQUESTS AN INTERVIEW WITH THEIR CAPTAIN...



MONSIEUR DE TREVILLE AWAITS M. D'ARTAGNAN.



MONSIEUR, IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE FRIENDSHIP YOU HAVE FOR MY FATHER, I HUMBLY REQUEST FROM YOU THE UNIFORM OF A MUSKETEER.



D'ARTAGNAN RELATES HOW HE LOST HIS LETTER OF INTRODUCTION, AND DESCRIBES IN DETAIL HIS ADVENTURES IN THE CITY OF MEUNG.



THAT IS ALL VERY STRANGE. YOU SAY HE WAS TALKING TO A WOMAN?

GLANCING THROUGH THE WINDOW, D'ARTAGNAN SEES HIS HATED RIVAL.

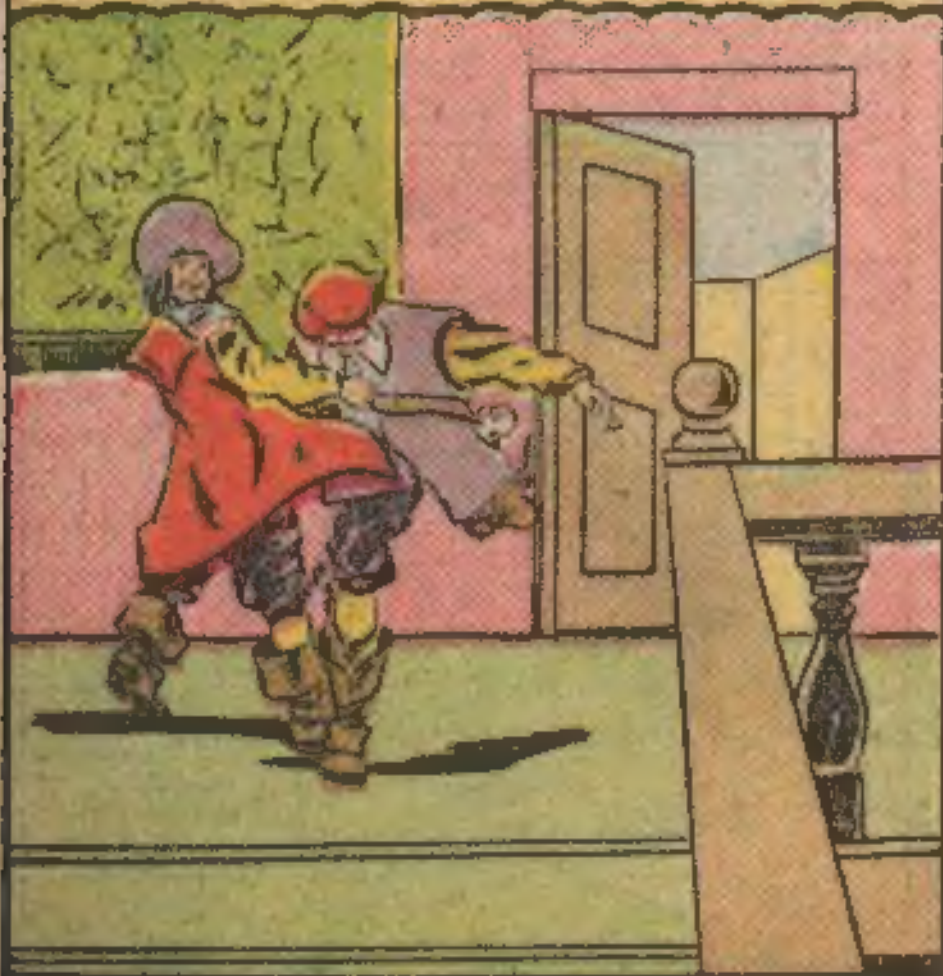
AH! *NOM de DIEU!* HE SHALL NOT ESCAPE ME THIS TIME!

WHO? WHO?

HE! MY THIEF! AH - THE TRAITOR!



IN HIS HASTE, D'ARTAGNAN RUNS HEADLONG INTO ATHOS, ONE OF THE MUSKETEERS.



EXCUSE ME FOR RUNNING AGAINST YOU, BUT I AM IN A HURRY.

I CAN PARDON YOUR HASTE, SIR, BUT NOT YOUR MANNERS.

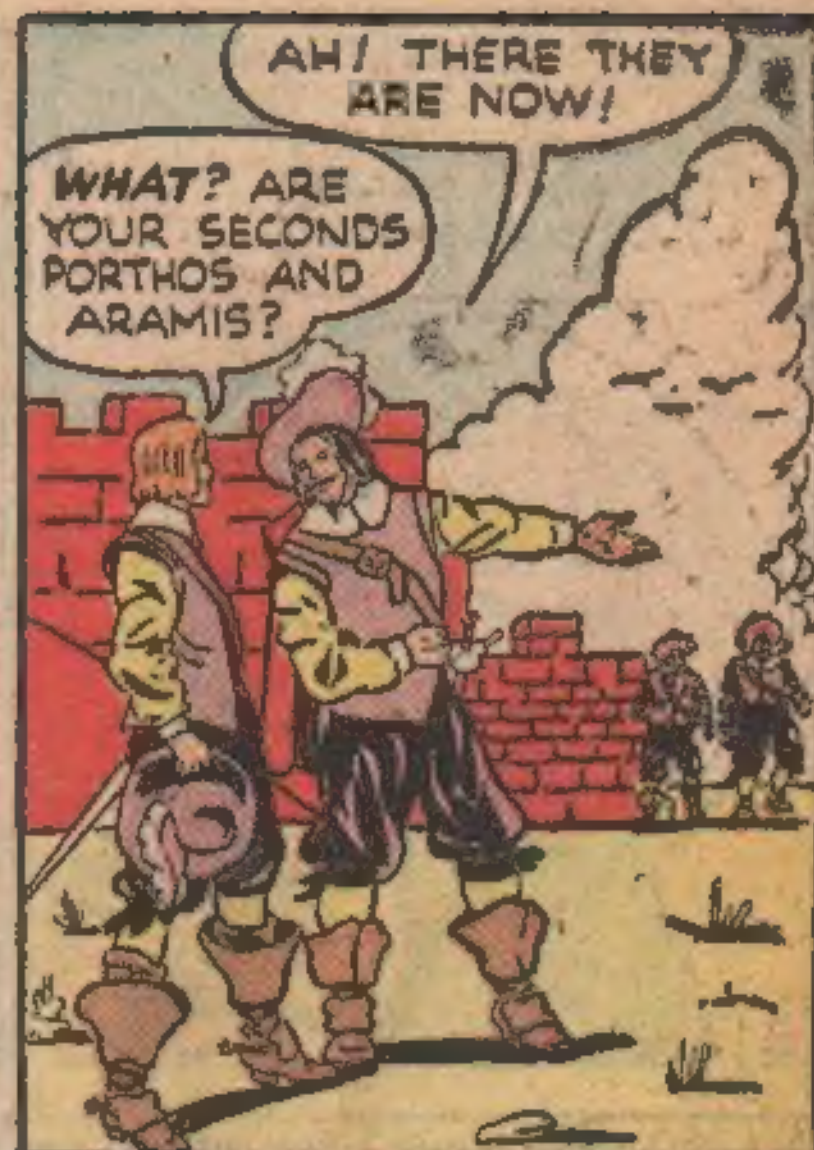


MORBLEU, SIR, IF I WERE NOT IN A HURRY, I COULD GIVE YOU A LESSON IN MANNERS!

A LESSON IN MANNERS? SHALL WE SAY AT NOON? AT NOON NEAR THE CARMES DESCHAUX? THERE!









CLOSE IN, GENTLEMEN. THERE ARE FIVE OF THEM AND WE ARE BUT THREE. ON MY PART I SHALL NEVER SURRENDER!



GENTLEMEN! I DO NOT WEAR YOUR UNIFORM, BUT MY HEART IS THAT OF A MUSKETEER. ALLOW ME TO CORRECT YOUR WORDS. WE ARE NOT THREE, BUT FOUR!



DECIDEDLY, YOU ARE A GALLANT FELLOW! THEN IT IS DONE - ON GUARD, GENTLEMEN, WE ARE ABOUT TO HAVE THE HONOR OF CHARGING YOU!



THE NINE COMBATANTS RUSH UPON EACH OTHER. ATHOS FIXES UPON CAHUSAC. PORTHOS CHOOSES BICARAT AND ARAMIS TAKES ON TWO AT ONCE.



D'ARTAGNAN SPRINGS LIKE A FURIOUS TIGER TOWARD JUSSAC, THE LEADER, ATTACKING HIM ON ALL SIDES AT ONCE, AND YET PARRYING LIKE A MAN WHO HAS THE GREATEST RESPECT FOR HIS OWN EPIDERMIS



JUSSAC, FURIOUS AT BEING HELD IN CHECK BY HIM WHOM HE CONSIDERS A BOY, COMMITS A FAULT AND D'ARTAGNAN RUNS HIM THROUGH --



THEN, D'ARTAGNAN, LOOKING AROUND, SEES THAT PORTHOS IS HOLDING HIS OWN AND ARAMIS HAS KILLED ONE MAN. ATHOS, HOWEVER, WEAKENED BY AN OLD WOUND WHICH HAS OPENED, IS IN NEED OF HELP ---



D'ARTAGNAN LEAPS TO THE SIDE OF CAHUSAC

TO ME, MONSIEUR! GUARD OR I WILL SLAY YOU!

CAHUSAC SOON FALLS WITH A SWORD-
THRUST THROUGH THE THROAT.



D'ARTAGNAN, WITH A LIGHTNING-FAST LUNGE, DISABLES HIS REMAINING OPPONENT.

BICARAT, SURROUNDED BY FOUR MUSKET-
EERS, IS FORCED TO SURRENDER.



ARM IN ARM, THE COMRADES TAKE THE
ROAD TO THE HOTEL OF M. DE TREVILLE.
THE HEART OF D'ARTAGNAN IS BURSTING
WITH JOY.



THAT NIGHT THEY DINE IN SPLENDOR,
WAITED ON BY FOUR LACKEYS.



THE FOUR COMPANIONS, THOUGH RICH IN
SPIRIT, ARE POOR IN MONEY. EACH TAKES
TURNS SUPPORTING THE ASSOCIATION
WITH HIS OWN MEANS.

D'ARTAGNAN, THE POOREST, FANCIES HIMSELF A BURDEN TO THE SOCIETY, AND IS SCHEMING OF WAYS TO RAISE MONEY WHEN HIS LANDLORD ENTERS —



I AM BONACIEUX, YOUR LANDLORD. I HAVE HEARD OF YOU AS A VERY BRAVE MAN AND HAVE COME TO CONFIDE A SECRET.



I HAVE A WIFE WHO IS SEAMSTRESS TO THE QUEEN. YESTERDAY SHE WAS CARRIED OFF AS SHE WAS LEAVING THE PALACE.

CARRIED OFF? BY WHOM?



I DO NOT KNOW, BUT I SUSPECT A MAN OF LOFTY CARRIAGE, PIERCING EYES, AND A SCAR ON HIS TEMPLE

A SCAR ON HIS TEMPLE? WHY, THAT'S MY MAN OF MEUNG!



HE IS YOUR MAN, YOU SAY?

YES. BUT GO ON. WHY WAS YOUR WIFE CARRIED OFF?



IT HAS BEEN DONE ON ACCOUNT OF THE AFFAIRS OF A MUCH GREATER LADY THAN SHE IS.

AH! CAN IT BE ON ACCOUNT OF THE AFFAIRS OF MADAME DE-BOIS-TRACY?

HIGHER, MONSIEUR, HIGHER!



OF MADAME DE CHEVREUSE?

HIGHER; MUCH HIGHER.



OF THE —?

YES, MONSIEUR. **THE QUEEN!**



AND WITH WHOM?

WITH WHOM CAN IT BE, IF NOT THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM?

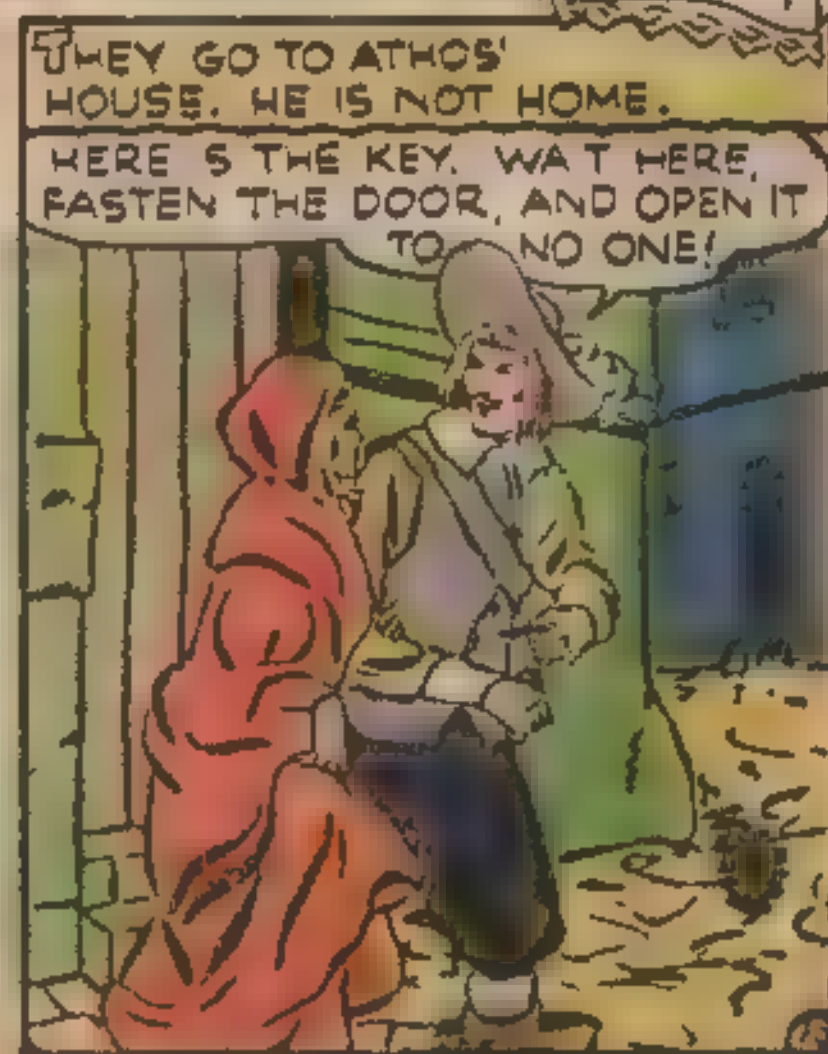
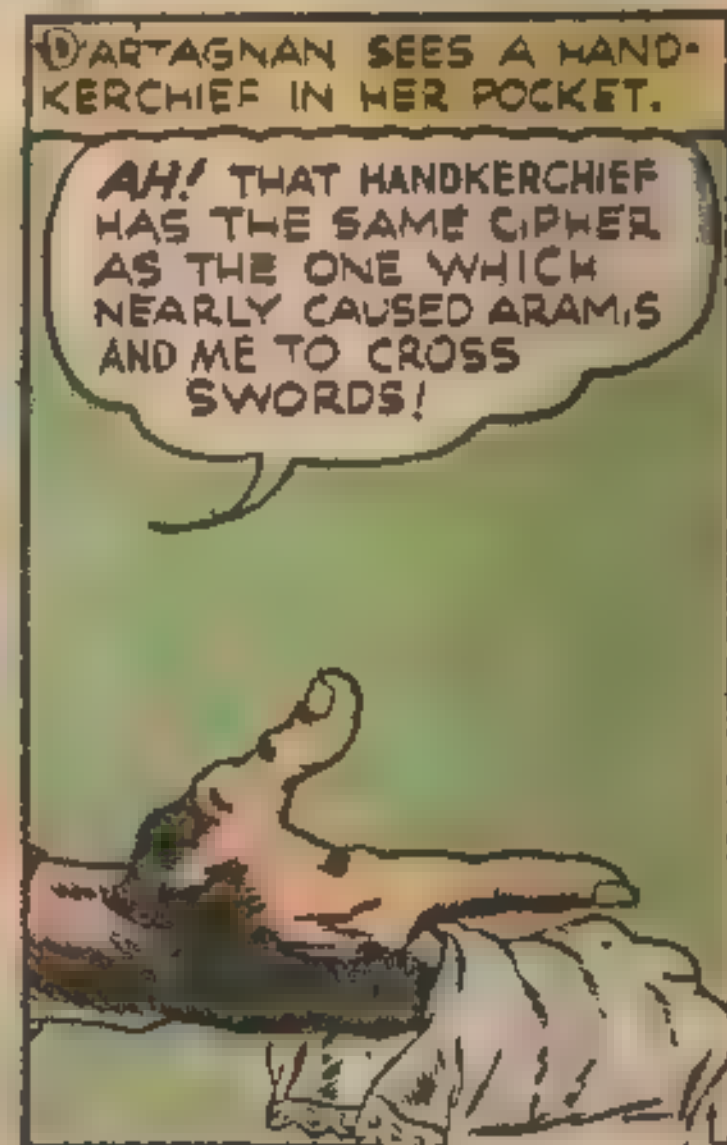
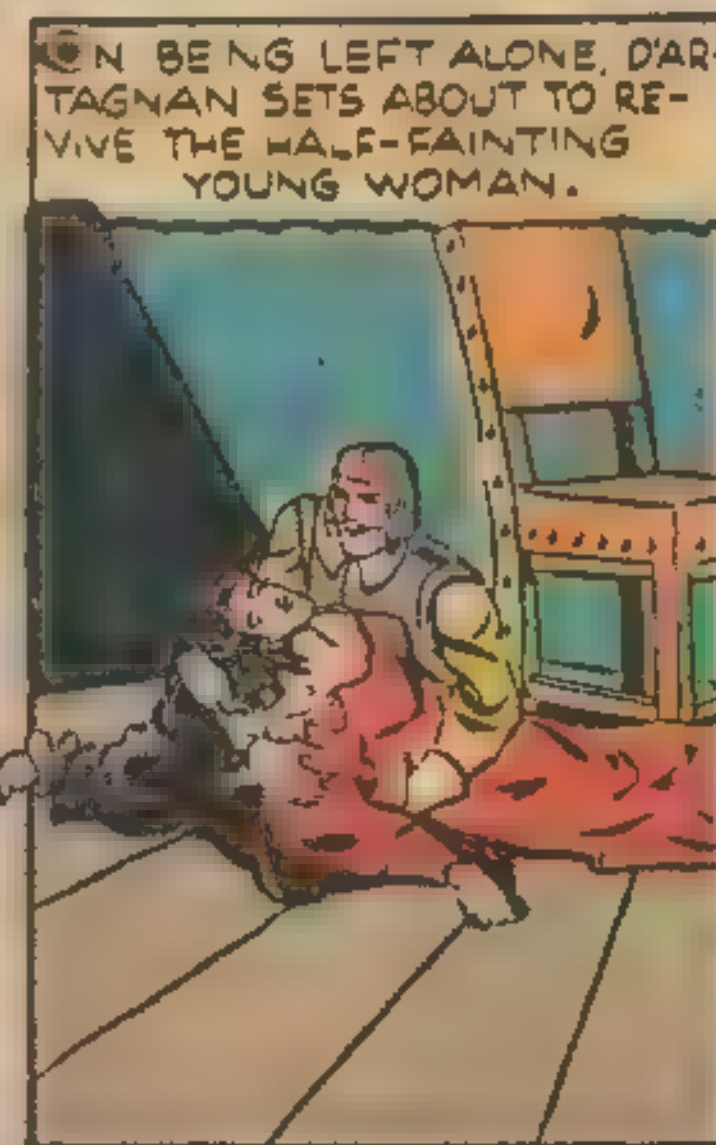


HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?

FROM MY WIFE, WHO IS IN THE QUEEN'S CONFIDENCE. THE DUKE HAS BEEN LURED TO PARIS BY A FORGED LETTER. THE QUEEN'S HONOR IS AT STAKE!



CLASSICS Illustrated



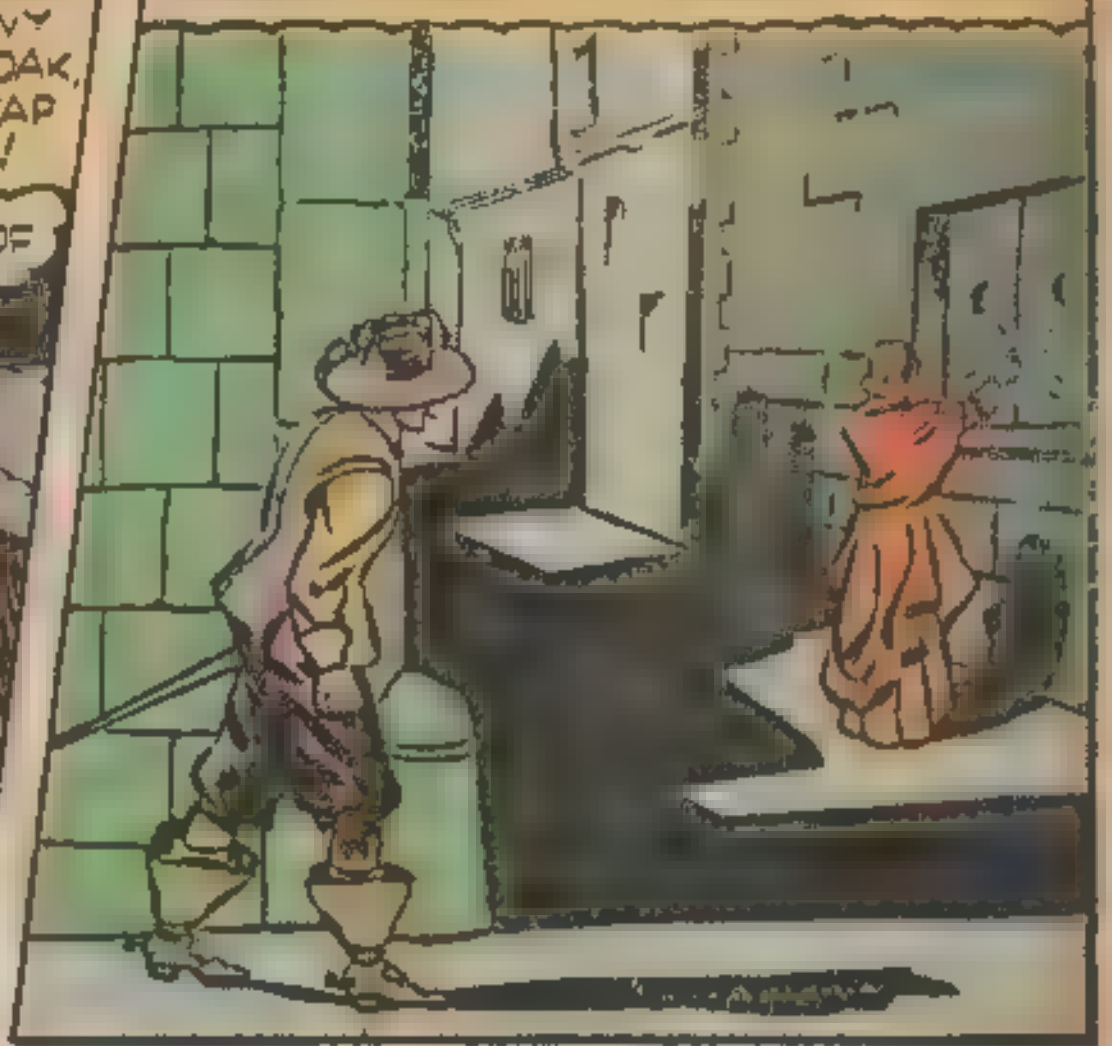
THINKING OF THE CHARMING MADAME BONACIEUX, WHO HAD TOUCHED HIS YOUNG HEART, D'ARTAGNAN PENSIVELY TAKES THE LONGEST WAY HOME.



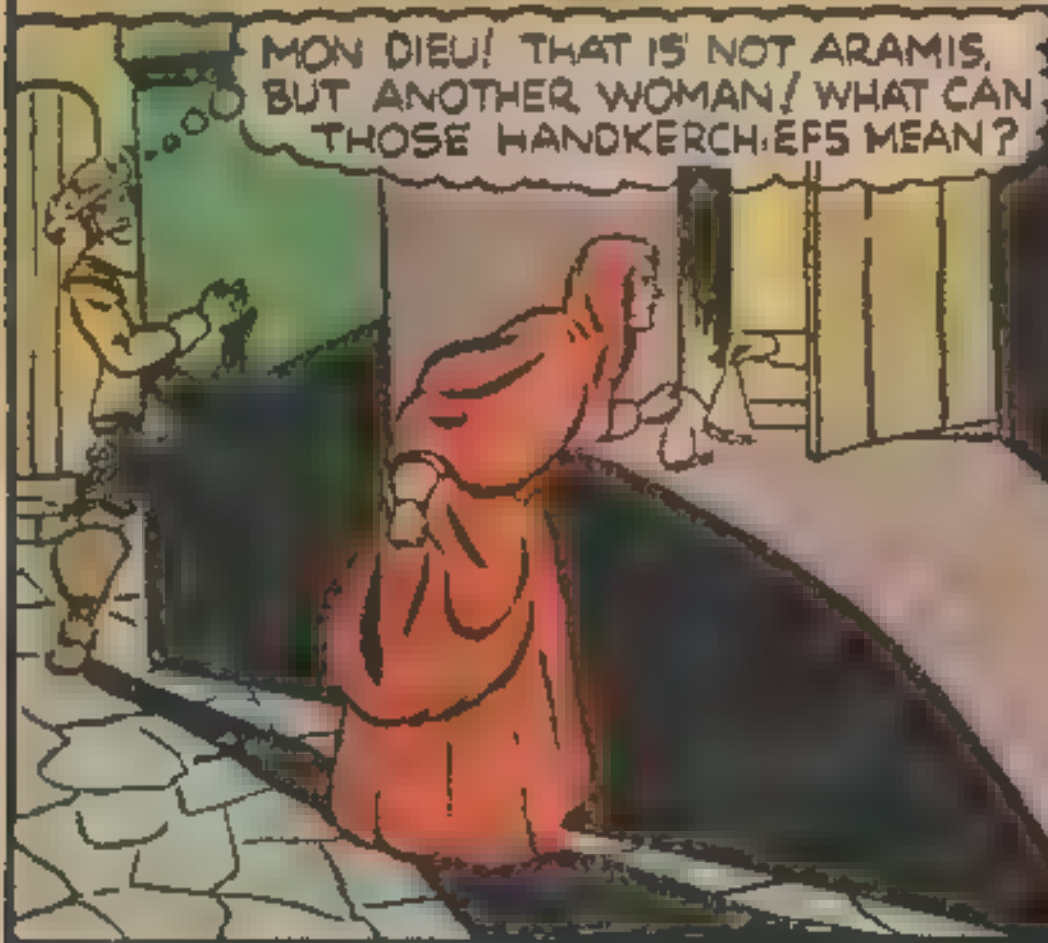
IT IS DARK AND THE STREETS ARE DESERTED. D'ARTAGNAN SEES A SMALL SHADOWY FIGURE, ENVELOPED IN A CLOAK, APPROACH A HOUSE AND TAP THREE ON THE WINDOW!



D'ARTAGNAN CONCEALS HIMSELF IN THE DARKEST SIDE OF THE STREET AND WATCHES.



THE THREE TAPS ARE ANSWERED IMMEDIATELY BY THE OPENING IN THE CASEMENT. THE NOCTURNAL VISITOR EXCHANGES HANDKERCHIEFS WITH THE PERSON IN THE HOUSE.



MON DIEU! THAT IS NOT ARAMIS, BUT ANOTHER WOMAN! WHAT CAN THOSE HANDKERCHIEFS MEAN?

THE SHUTTER IS CLOSED AND THE CLOAKED FIGURE PASSES WITHIN FOUR STEPS OF D'ARTAGNAN. IT IS MADAME BONACIEUX.



THIS AFFAIR IS BECOMING INVOLVED! WHAT BUSINESS CAN SHE HAVE WHICH IS SO SECRET THAT SHE WANDERS ABOUT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?

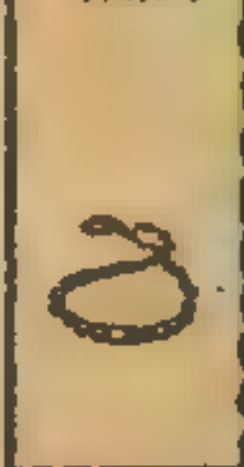


D'ARTAGNAN FOLLOWS MME. BONACIEUX. AT THE TOP OF THE RUE GUENEGAUD, SHE MEETS A MAN WHO CAN BE NONE OTHER THAN ARAMIS.



AH-DOUBLY BETRAYED! BY MY FRIEND AND HER WHOM I SAVED!

RESOLVED TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY, D'ARTAGNAN STANDS SQUARELY ATHWART THEIR PATH!



CLASSICS Illustrated

WHAT DO YOU WANT, MONSIEUR?

PARD EU! ARE YOU NOT ARAMIS?

NO, MONSIEUR, I AM NOT ARAMIS! ALLOW ME TO PASS OR I WILL RUN YOU THROUGH!

MADAME BONACIEUX, AFRAID OF WHAT MIGHT ENSUE, THROWS HERSELF BETWEEN THE TWO.

IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN—MILORD!

MILORD! PARDON ME, MONSIEUR, BUT ARE YOU—?

MILORD, THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM! AND NOW YOU MAY RUIN US ALL!

MILORD MADAME— I ASK A HUNDRED PARDONS! TELL ME, HOW CAN I SERVE YOUR GRACE?

I ACCEPT YOUR SERVICES. FOLLOW US TO THE LOUVRE AT TWENTY PACES. IF ANYONE WATCHES, SLAY HIM!

D'ARTAGNAN PLACES HIS NAKED SWORD UNDER HIS ARM AND FOLLOWS AT TWENTY PACES UNTIL HE SEES THEM ENTER THE LOUVRE.

LEAVING D'ARTAGNAN FOR A WHILE, WE RETURN TO MONSIEUR BONACIEUX, WHO IS IMPRISONED IN THE BASTILLE —

THAT EVENING BONACIEUX IS SITTING IN HIS DUNGEON GLOOMY THINKING OVER HIS PAST WHEN A GUARD OPENS THE DOOR...

FOLLOW ME!

FOLLOW YOU? FOLLOW YOU AT THIS HOUR? WHERE?

WHERE WE HAVE ORDERS TO LEAD YOU, COME!

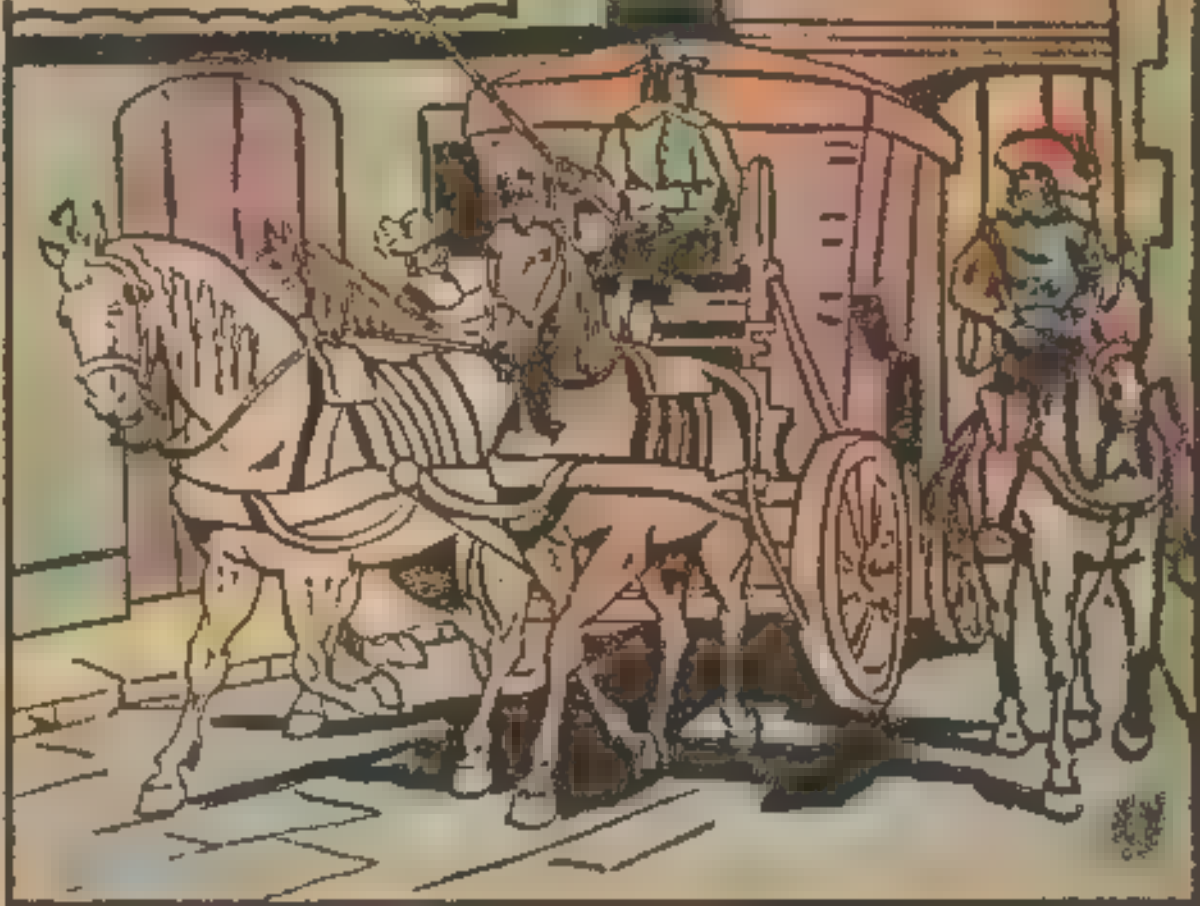
AH MY GOD,
NOW INDEED
I AM LOST!



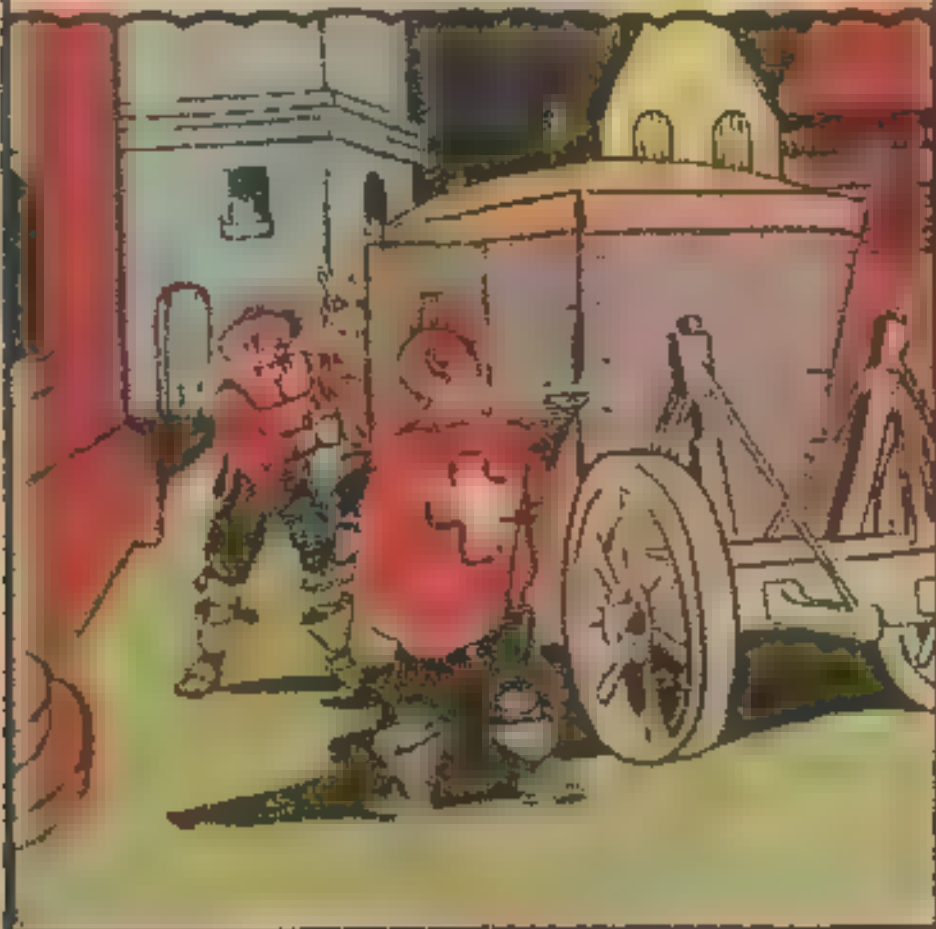
MASTER BONACEUX IS PUT
IN A CLOSED CARRIAGE
SURROUNDED BY FOUR GUARDS
ON HORSEBACK.



THE CARRIAGE IS PUT IN MOTION AS SLOWLY AS
A FUNERAL CAR, AND GOES THROUGH THE STREETS
OF PARIS.



FINALLY THE CARRIAGE STOPS BE-
FORE A HOUSE. THE DOOR IS OPENED
AND TWO GUARDS TAKE OUT THE
TERRIFIED BONACEUX.



THE GUARDS TAKE
HIM UP A FLIGHT OF
STAIRS AND DEPOSIT
HIM IN THE ANTE-
CHAMBER.



AN OFFICER OPENS THE DOOR.

IS YOUR NAME
BONACEUX?

YES, MONSIEUR;
AT YOUR
SERVICE.

COME IN.



IN THE ROOM
IS A MAN WHO,
EXCEPT FOR A
SWORD, HAS
ALL THE AP-
PEARANCE OF
A SOLDIER.
HE IS ARMAND
JEAN DUPLESSIS,
CARDINAL DE
RICHELIEU,
ONE OF THE MOST
EXTRAORDINARY
MEN WHO EVER
EXISTED!

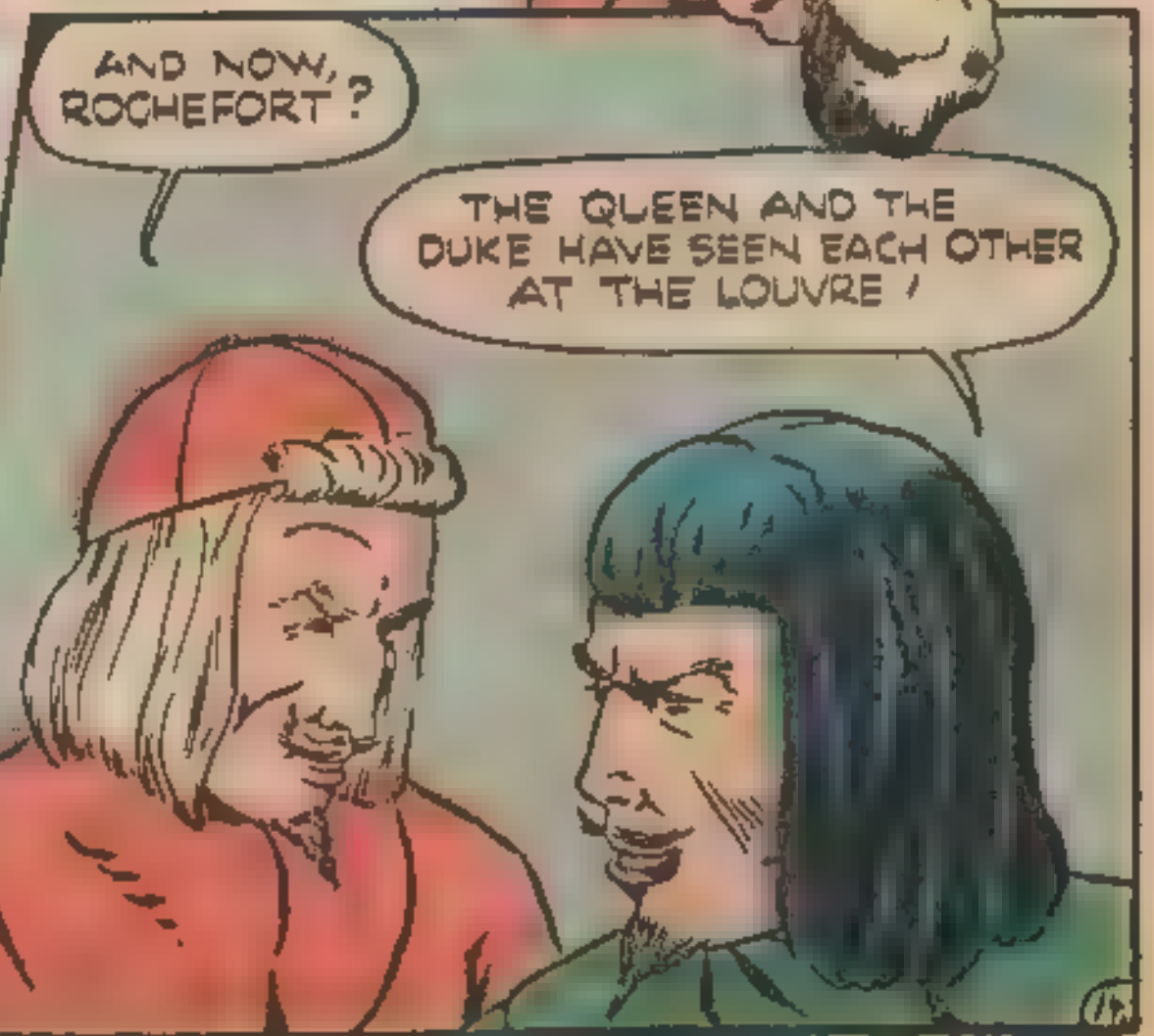
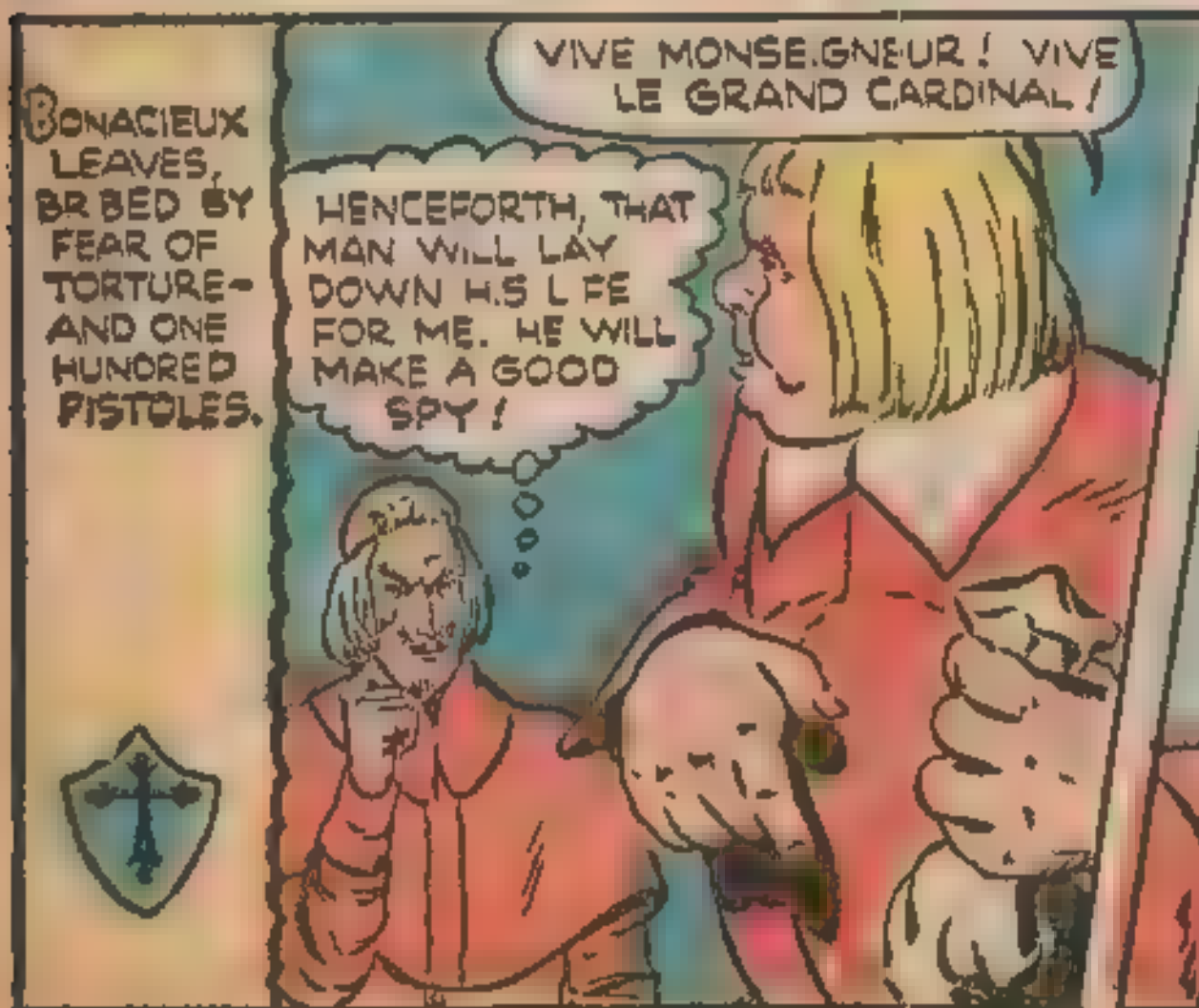
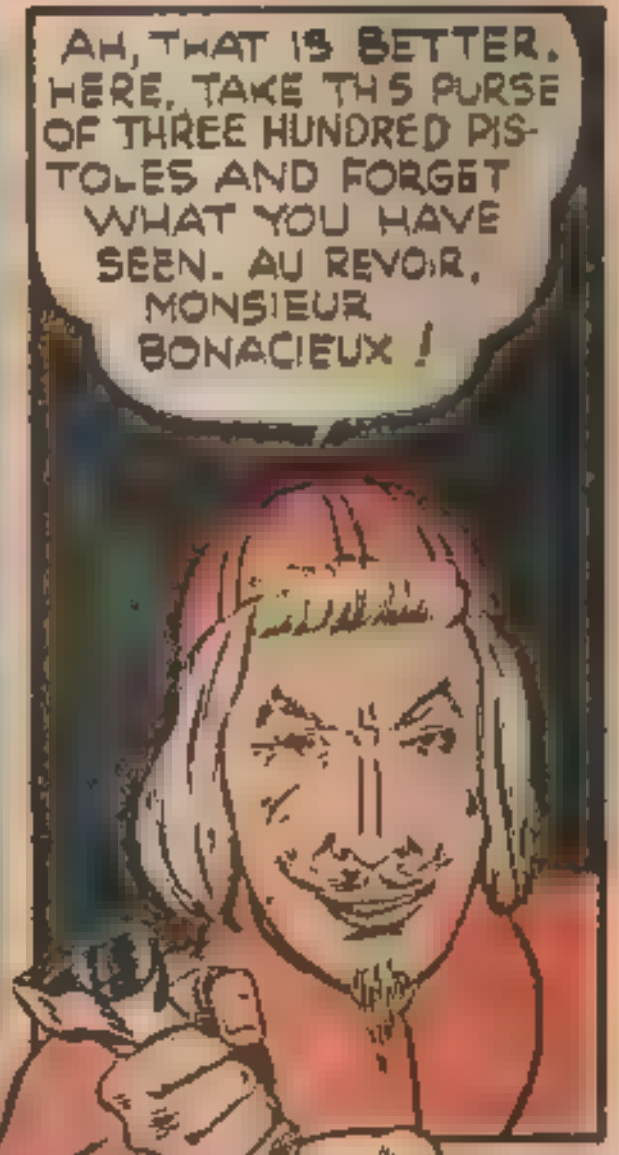
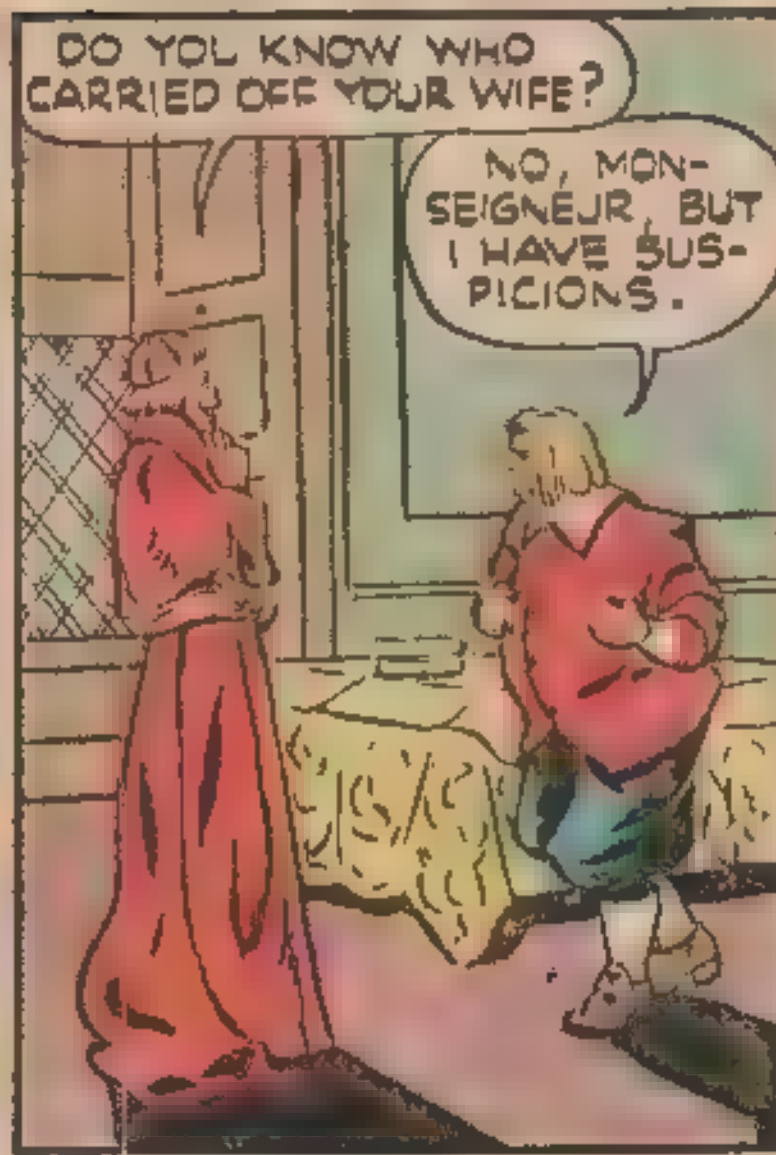


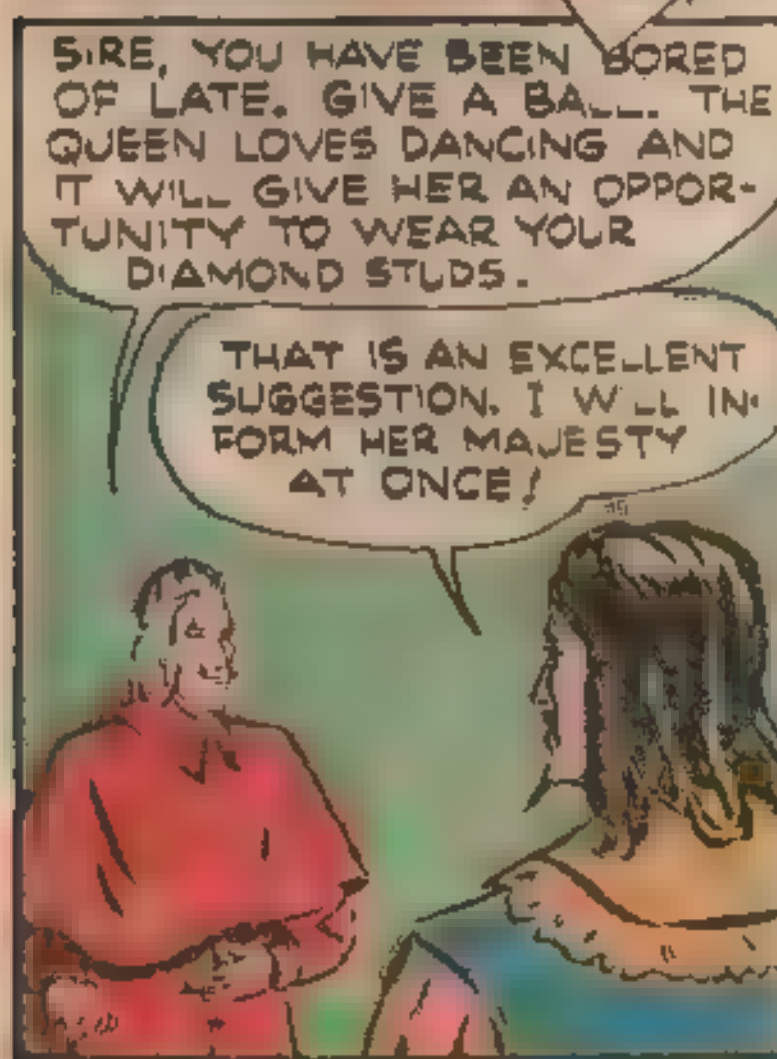
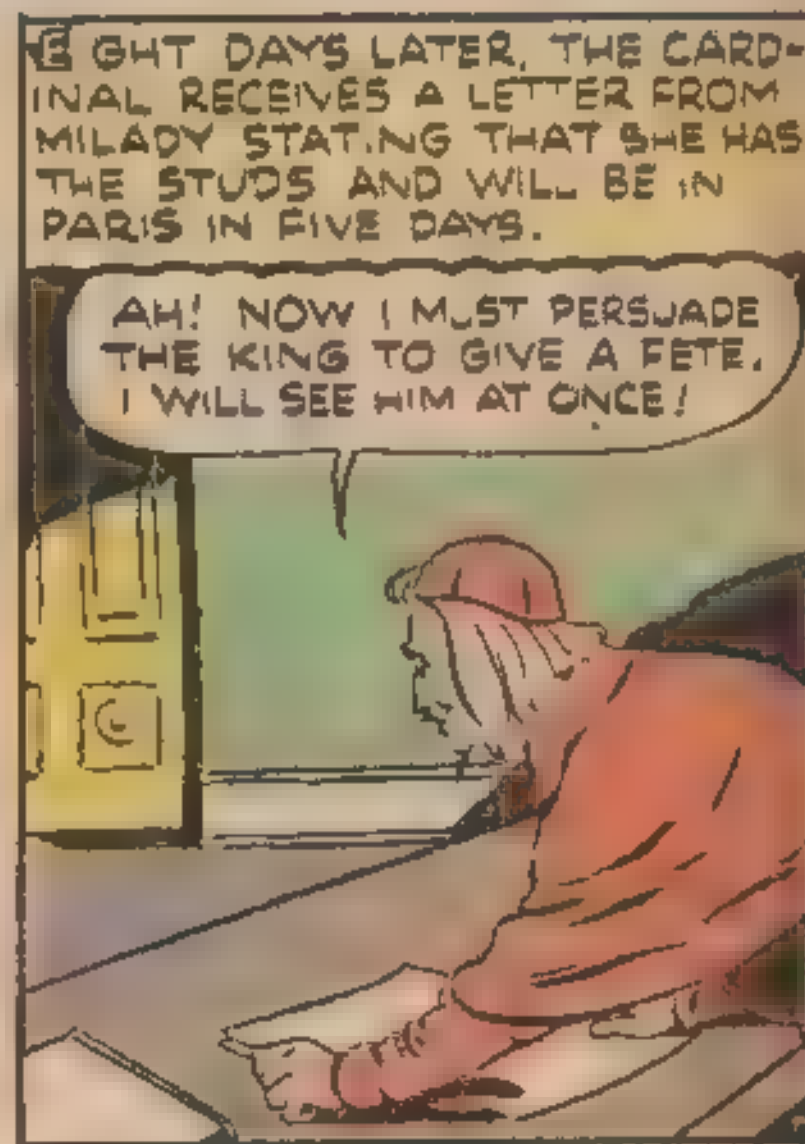
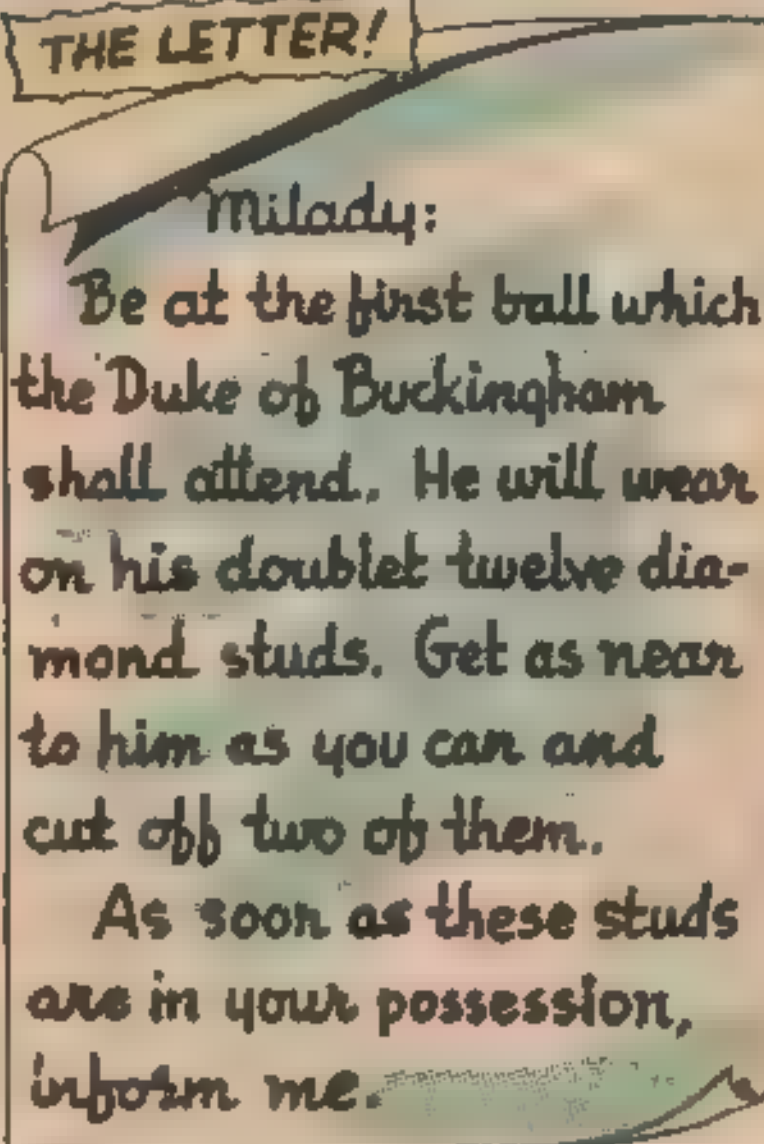
IS THAT BONACEUX?

YES,
MONSIEUR.

GIVE ME THE PAPERS
FROM THE BASTILLE







CLASSICS Illustrated

AFTER THE KING LEAVES THE QUEEN LEANS FOR SUPPORT ON THE TABLE.

I AM LOST!
MY GOD! MY GOD!



MADAME BONACIEUX, WHO HAS HEARD THE CONVERSATION FROM THE OTHER ROOM, ENTERS.

CAN I BE OF SERVICE TO YOUR MAJESTY?



OH, MADAME BONACIEUX, I AM BETRAYED. I MUST RETRIEVE THOSE STUDS!

I BELIEVE I HAVE A WAY OF EXTRICATING YOUR MAJESTY FROM HER TROUBLE!



I MUST PLACE MY LIFE, MY HONOR, MY REPUTATION IN YOUR HANDS. HOW CAN YOU HELP?

MY HUSBAND WILL DO ANYTHING I ASK. HE WILL DELIVER YOUR LETTER TO LONDON!



THE QUEEN WRITES TWO LINES, SEALS THE LETTER WITH HER PRIVATE SEAL AND GIVES IT TO MADAME BONACIEUX.

HURRY! WE HAVE ONLY TWELVE DAYS BEFORE THE BALL!



MADAME BONACIEUX RETURNS TO HER HOME UNAWARE THAT IN HER ABSENCE HER HUSBAND HAS BECOME A CARDINAL SPY.



YOU MUST SET OUT TO LONDON IMMEDIATELY! I WILL GIVE YOU A PAPER WHICH YOU MUST NOT PART WITH, AND WHICH YOU WILL DELIVER INTO THE PROPER HANDS!

BUT WHY AM I TO GO?

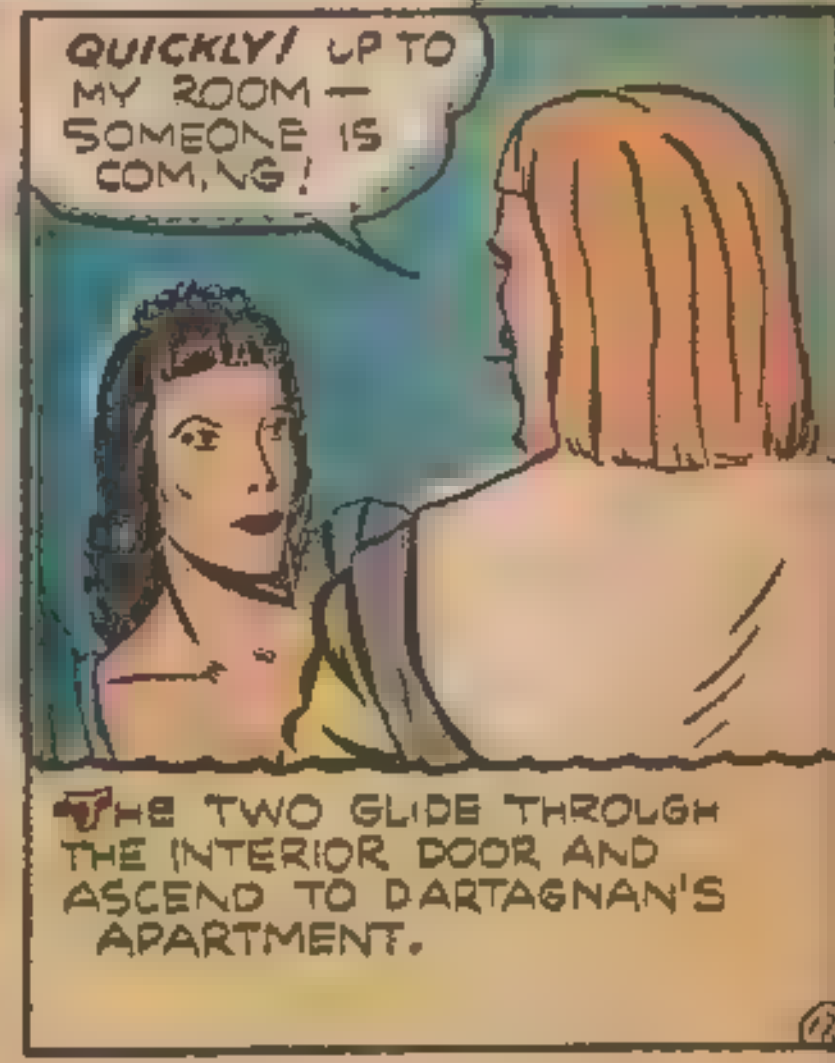
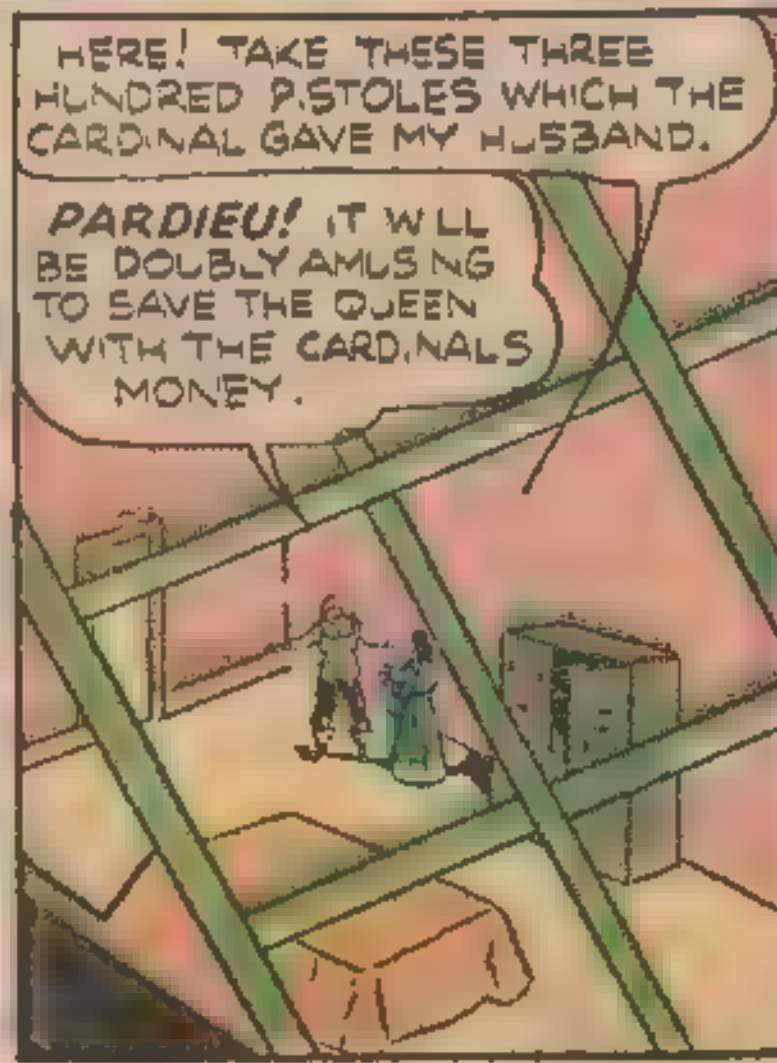
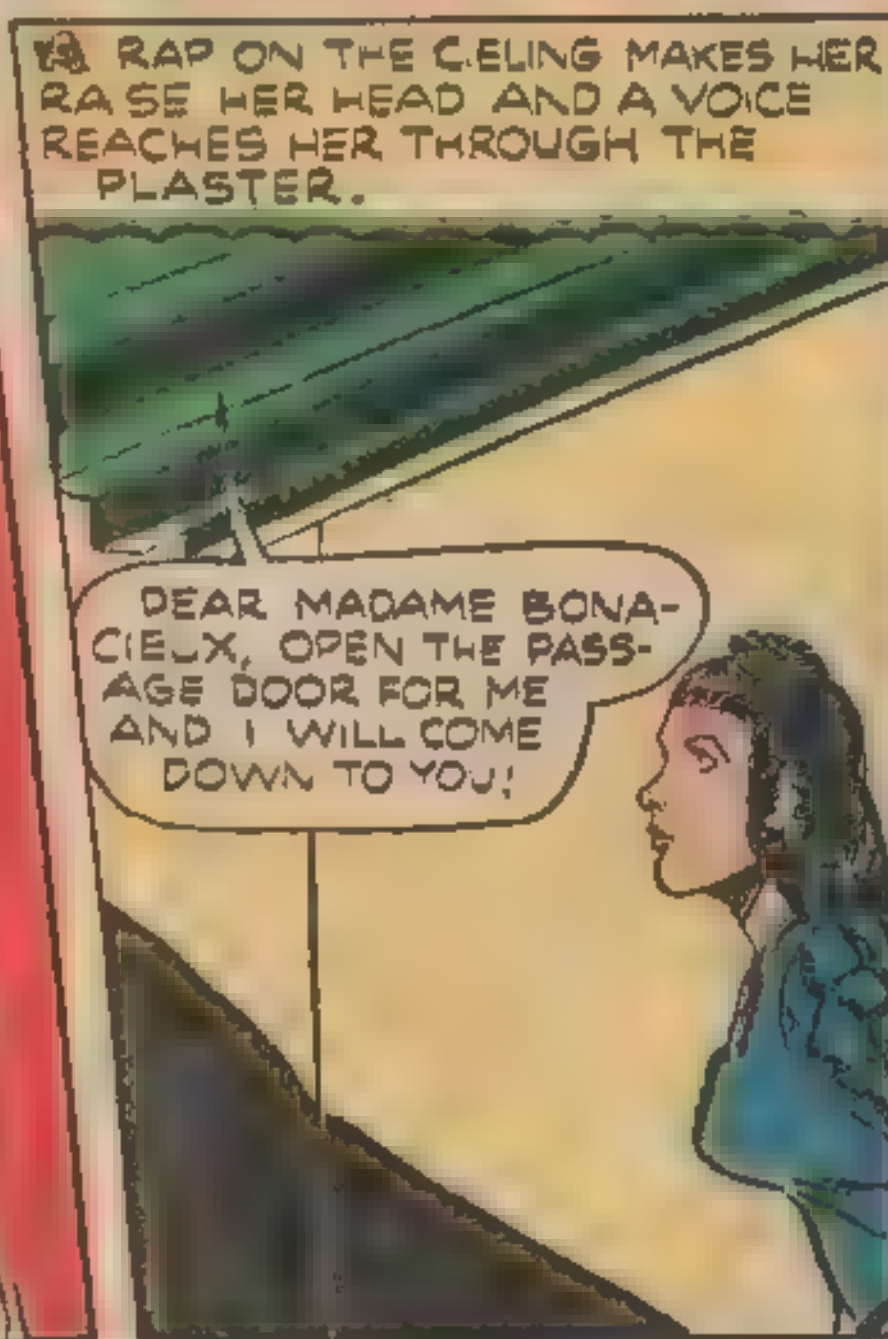
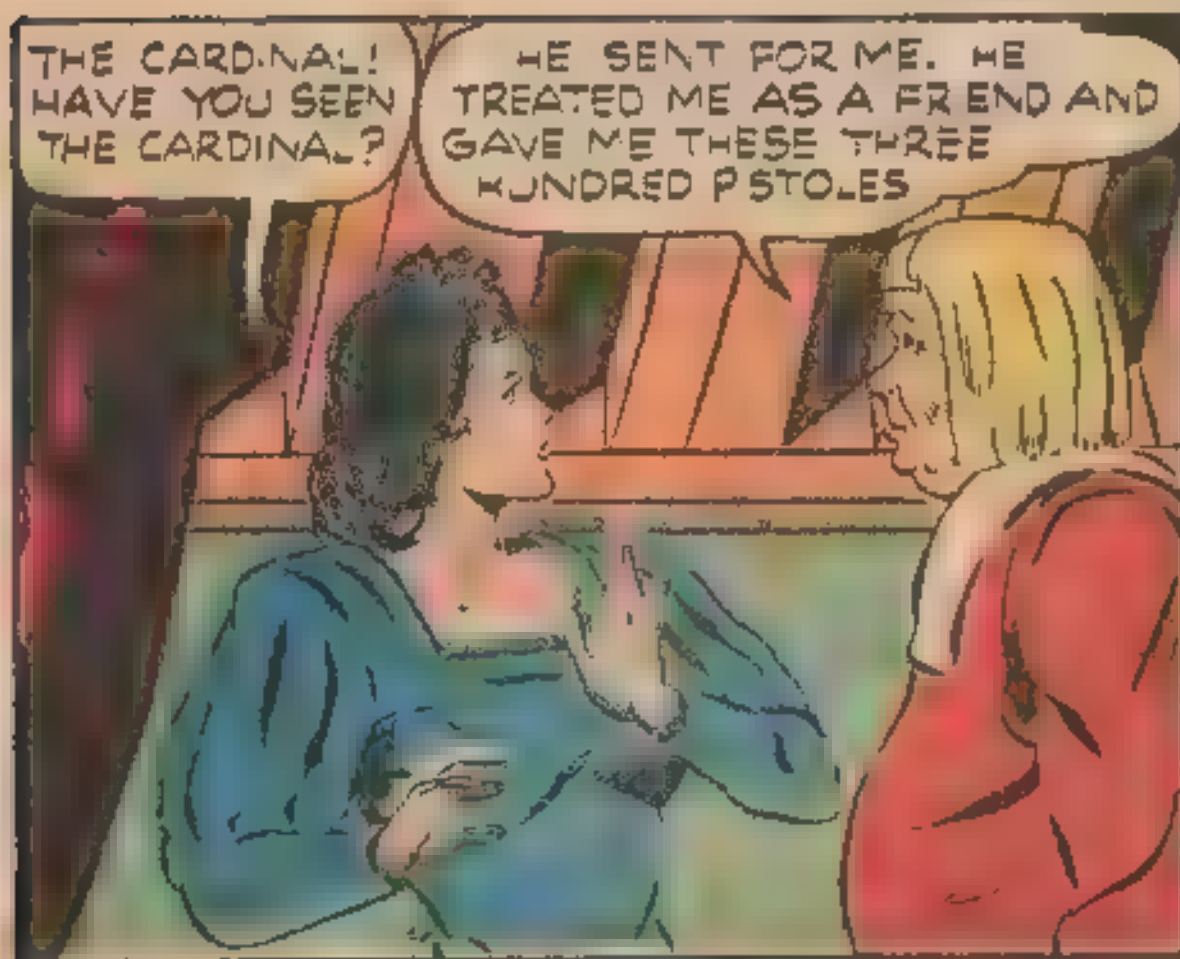


AN ILLUSTRIOUS PERSON SENDS YOU AN ILLUSTRIOUS PERSON AND AS YOU THE RECOMPENSE IS GREAT - THAT'S ALL I PROMISE YOU

AH! THE CARDINAL WILL BE INTERESTED IN THIS!

INTRIGUES! NOTHING BUT INTRIGUES MONSIEUR LE CARDINAL HAS ENGAGED ME ON THAT MATTER





CLASSICS Illustrated

LOCKED IN THE ROOM, MADAME BONACIEUX AND D'ARTAGNAN LOOK OUT THROUGH A SLIT IN THE SHUTTER.

IT IS MY HUSBAND AND ROCHEFORT!

AHA! IT IS MY MAN OF MEUNG!

THEY ARE ENTERING THE APARTMENT. WE SHALL LISTEN TO THE CONVERSATION THROUGH THIS HOLE IN THE FLOOR.

THEN THE NEWS I HAVE BROUGHT YOU IS VALUABLE?

YES, MY DEAR BONACIEUX. DID SHE MENTION ANY NAMES?

NO. SHE ONLY TOLD ME SHE WISHED ME TO GO TO LONDON.

THEN AGREE TO ACCEPT THE MISSION AND GET POSSESSION OF THE LETTER. WHEN YOU DO, MEET ME AT MY APARTMENT.

THEY HAVE GONE NOW YOU MUST GO. COURAGE MY FRIEND, AND ABOVE ALL, PRUDENCE!

D'ARTAGNAN GOES TO ATHOS APARTMENT WHERE LUCKILY HE FINDS THE THREE MUSKETEERS.

GENTLEMEN, WE ARE GOING TO LONDON ON A MISSION OF MOST IMPORTANCE!

TO LONDON! AND WHAT THE DEVIL ARE WE GOING TO DO IN LONDON?

I'M NOT AT LIBERTY TO TELL YOU. YOU MUST TRUST ME!

THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME. DARTAGNAN, I AM READY TO FOLLOW YOU.

AND I ALSO!

AND I!

NOW LET US FIRST LAY DOWN THE PLAN OF THE CAMPAIGN. WHERE DO WE GO FIRST?

TO CALAIS; THAT IS THE MOST DIRECT LINE TO LONDON. THE CARDINAL KNOWS OF MY MISSION AND WILL TRY TO PREVENT ME FROM GETTING THERE.

I AM THE BEARER OF A LETTER. IF I SHOULD BE KILLED, ONE OF YOU MUST TAKE IT AND PURSUE THE ROUTE; IF HE BE KILLED, IT WILL BE ANOTHER'S TURN; THE LETTER MUST REACH LONDON!

AT TWO O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, THE FOUR ADVENTURERS AND THEIR LACKEYS START ON THEIR PERILOUS JOURNEY.



ALL GOES WELL UNTIL THEY REACH CHANTILLY. AS THEY ARE FINISHING BREAKFAST, A MAN ENTERS THE INN.



HERE'S TO THE HEALTH OF THE CARDINAL. DRINK WITH ME!

WITH PLEASURE IF YOU IN TURN WILL DRINK TO THE HEALTH OF THE KING!



I ACKNOWLEDGE NO OTHER KING THAN HIS EMINENCE!

YOU ARE DRUNK!



AT THIS THE STRANGER DREW HIS SWORD. PORTHOS ATTACKS, PROMISING HIS ADVERSARY TO PERFORATE HIM WITH ALL THE KNOWN THRUSTS IN FENCING SCHOOL.

YOU HAVE COMMITTED A FOLLY. KILL THE FELLOW AND JOIN US AS SOON AS YOU CAN.

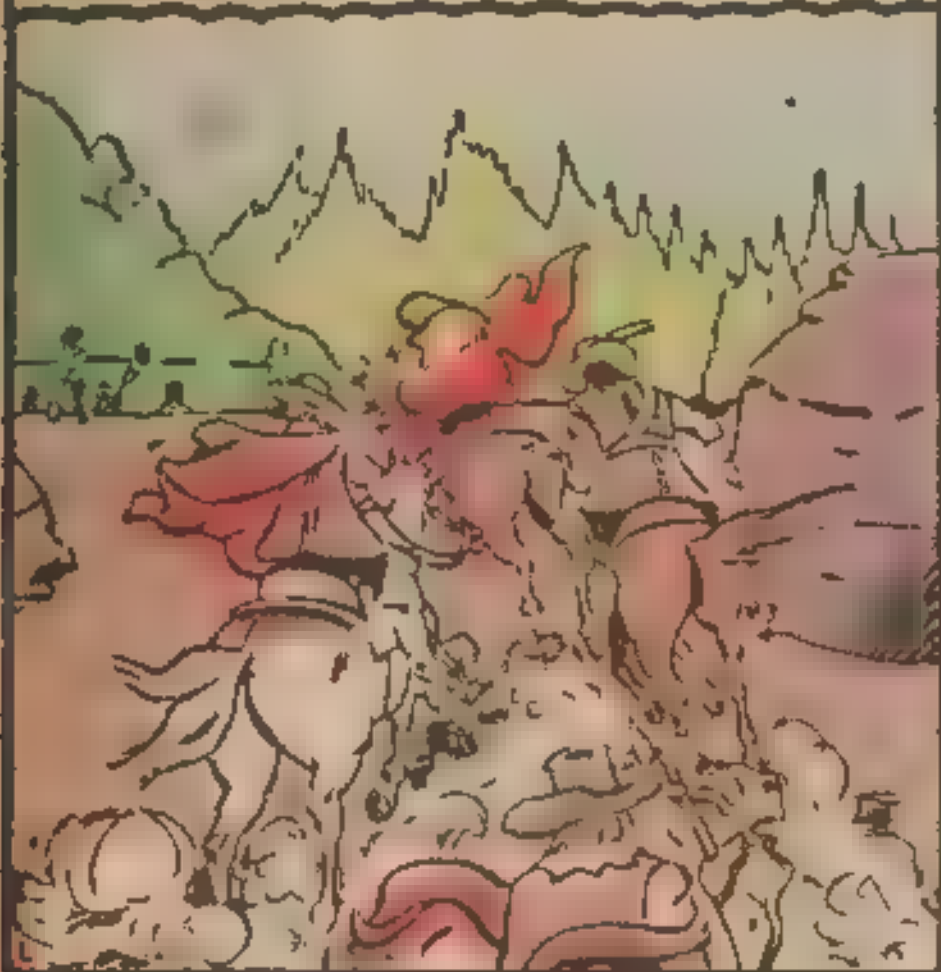


THE OTHERS MOUNT THEIR HORSES AND RIDE OFF. AFTER AN HOUR'S RIDE, PORTHOS HAD NOT COME.

THERE GOES ONE!



IN A LEAGUE BEYOND BEAUVAIS, THEY COME UPON EIGHT LABORERS WORKING ON THE ROAD.



AS THE TRAVELERS DRAW ABREAST THE WORKERS LEAP INTO A DITCH, SEIZE CONCEALED MUSKETS AND FIRE ON THE PARTY. THE MUSKETEERS SPUR THEIR HORSES AND CHARGE THROUGH.



MOSQUETON, PORTHOS' LACKEY, IS SHOT FROM HIS HORSE. ARAMS RECEIVES A BALL THROUGH THE SHOULDER, BUT CONTINUES ON --



AT GRÉVECOLER ARAMS IS TOO WICK TO PROCEED FURTHER. THEY LEAVE HIM IN THE CARE OF BAZIN, HIS LACKEY AND SET FORWARD.

MORBLEU! REDUCED TO TWO MASTERS AND THEIR LACKEYS!



THEY SPEND THE NIGHT AT AN IN. IN THE MORNING THEY PREPARE TO LEAVE.

ATHOS YOU PAY THE HOST OUR RECKONING: PLANCHET AND I WILL GET THE HORSES.



THIS MONEY IS BAD! ILL HAVE YOU ARRESTED AS COINERS!

YOU SCOUNDREL! ILL CUT OFF YOUR EARS!



AT THE INKEEPER'S CRY FOR HELP, FOUR MEN, ARMED TO THE TEETH, ENTER BY A SIDE DOOR AND RUSH UPON ATHOS.

I AM TAKEN! GO ON, D'ARTAGNAN, SPUR, SPUR!



DARTAGNAN LEAPS ON HIS HORSE AND GALLOPS OFF --

BRAVE ATHOS!



D'ARTAGNAN ARRIVES AT THE PORT OF CALAS. A GENTLEMAN IS TALKING TO THE CAPTAIN OF A VESSEL.

NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO CROSS WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION FROM THE CARDINAL!



I HAVE PERMISSION. HERE IT IS!

HAVE YOUR LETTER EXAMINED BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE PORT AND GIVE ME YOUR PREFERENCE.



D'ARTAGNAN FOLLOWS THE MAN TO THE GOVERNORS HOUSE AND SEES HIM ENTER.



ON THE WAY BACK, D'ARTAGNAN ACCOSTS THE GENTLEMAN.

MONSIEUR I WANT THAT LETTER OF WHICH YOU ARE THE BEARER, SEEING THAT I HAVE NONE.

YOU ARE JOKING, I PRESUME!



I SELDOM JOKE! ON GUARD!



D'ARTAGNAN QUICKLY DROPS HIS OPPONENT AND TAKES HIS ORDER FOR PASSAGE. IT IS IN THE NAME OF COUNT DE WARDES.

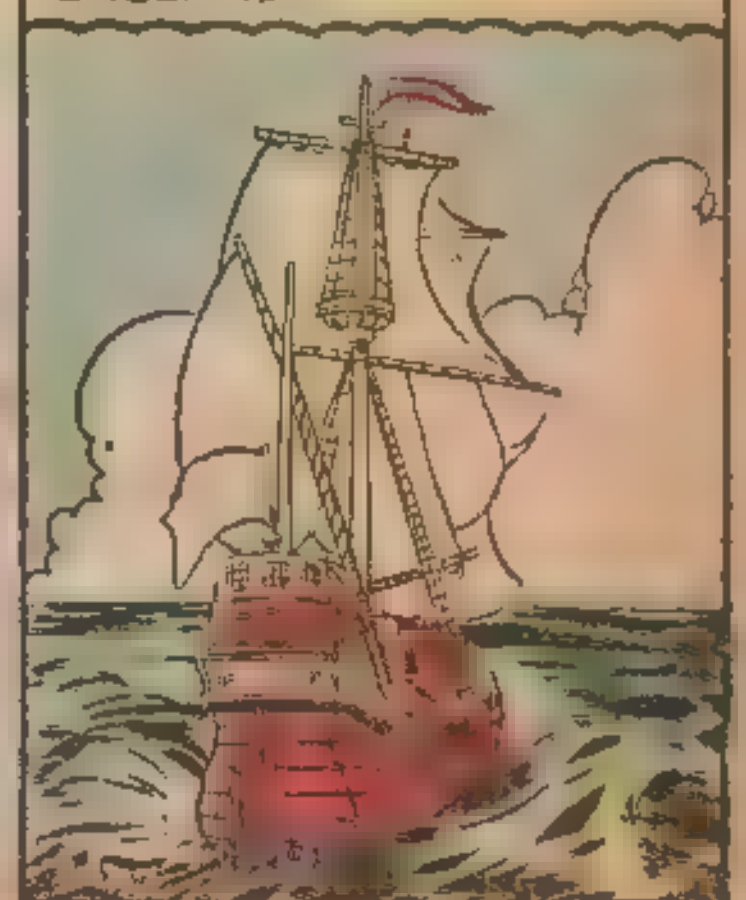


D'ARTAGNAN RUNS TO THE SHIP AND PRESENTS THE LETTER TO THE CAPTAIN.

GOOD! WE SAIL IMMEDIATELY!



UNDER FULL SAIL THE SHIP CROSSES THE CHANNEL TO ENGLAND.



CLASSICS Illustrated

AT TEN-THIRTY THE NEXT MORNING, D'ARTAGNAN ARRIVES IN LONDON.

HERE I AM AT LAST!

D'ARTAGNAN GALLOPS THROUGH THE STREETS OF LONDON ON HIS WAY TO THE HOTEL OF THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.

THE DUKE'S VALET, PATRICK, RECEIVES HIM.

WHOM MUST I ANNOUNCE TO MY LORD DUKE?

THE YOUNG MAN WHO, ONE EVENING IN PARIS, SOUGHT A DUEL WITH HIM - OUTSIDE THE LOUVRE.

D'ARTAGNAN IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE DUKE.

HAS ANY MISFORTUNE BEFALLEN THE QUEEN?

I BELIEVE NOT. TAKE THIS LETTER.

GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT DO I READ? FOLLOW ME!

THEY GO TO THE DUKE'S PRIVATE CHAMBER. FROM A DESK THE DUKE TAKES A CASKET CONTAINING THE STUDS.

HERE ARE THE PRECIOUS STUDS THE QUEEN GAVE ME.

MY GOD! ALL IS LOST! TWO OF THE STUDS ARE WANTING! THERE ARE BUT TEN OF THEM!

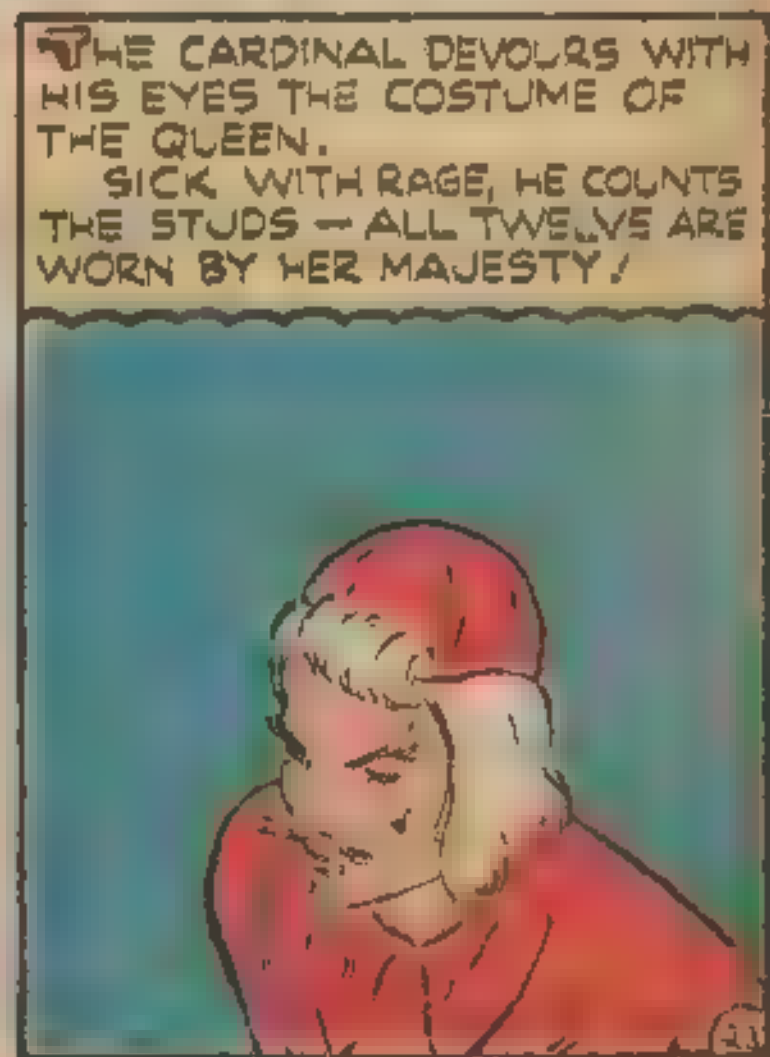
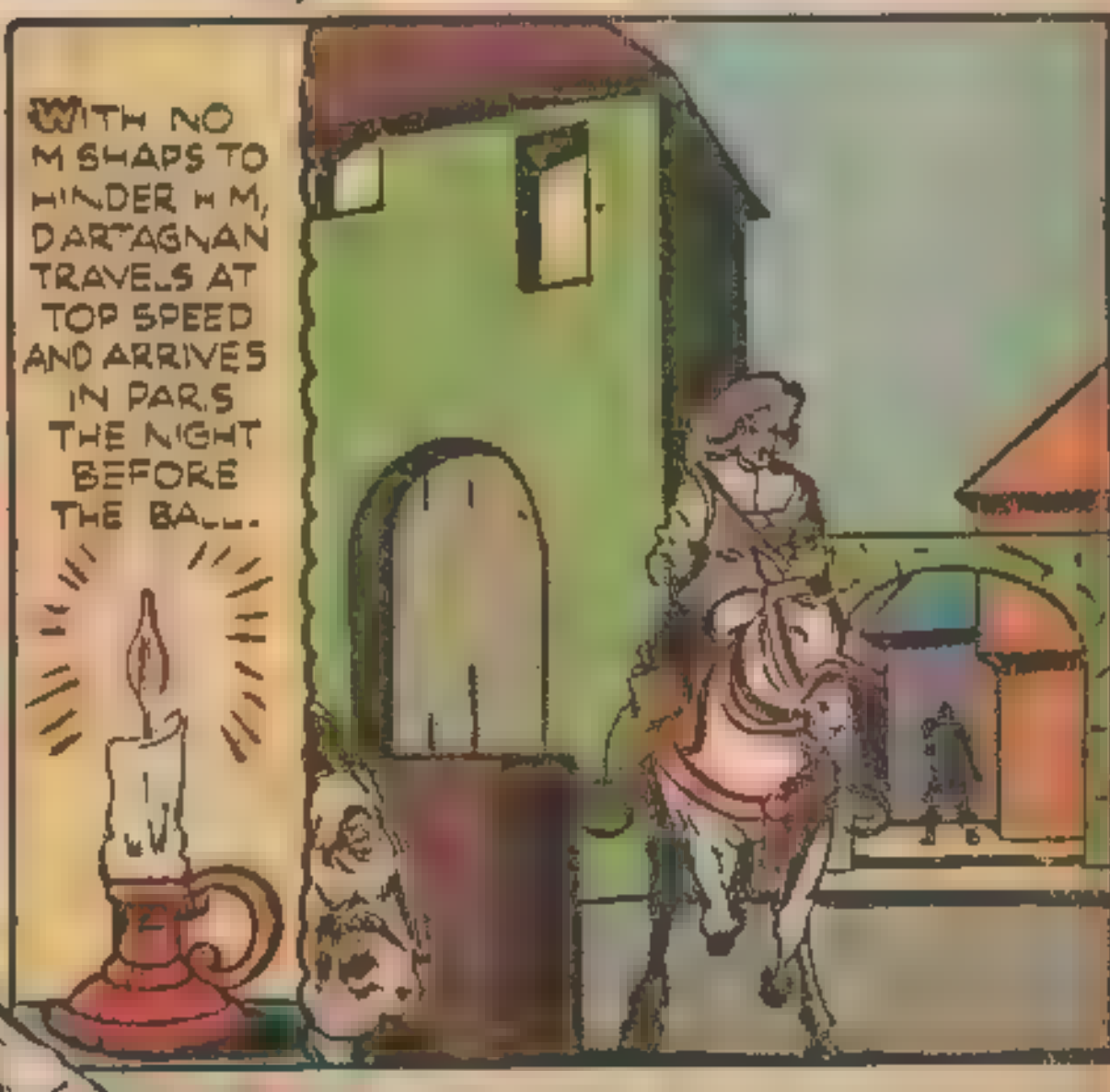
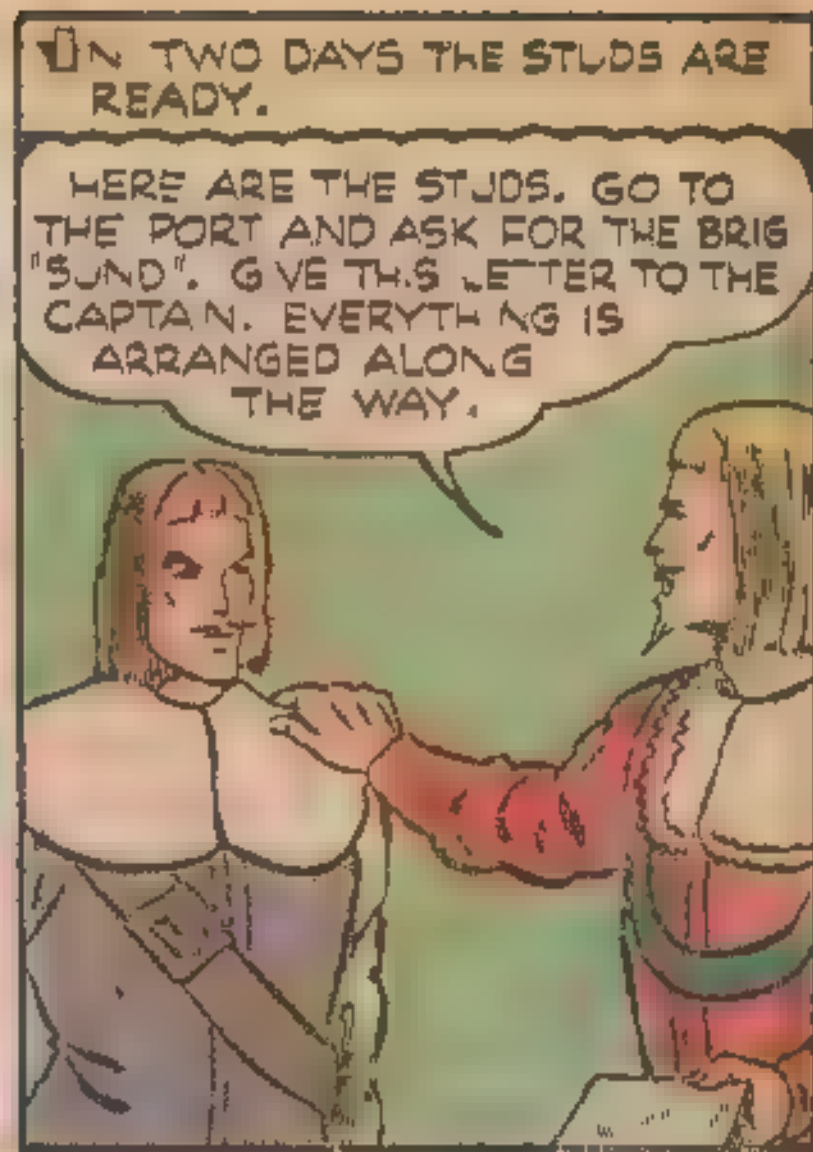
CAN YOU HAVE LOST THEM, MILORD, OR DO YOU THINK THEY HAVE BEEN STOLEN?

THEY HAVE BEEN STOLEN. WHEN IS THE BALL TO TAKE PLACE?

ON MONDAY NEXT.

STILL FIVE DAYS BEFORE US. PATRICK! CALL MY JEWELER!

YES, MY LORD.



CLASSICS Illustrated

DARTAGNAN, ON DUTY AT THE BALL, IS ABOUT TO RETIRE, WHEN A MASKED WOMAN BECKONS HIM.



DARTAGNAN FOLLOWS HER TO A SMALL DARK ROOM, SHUT OFF BY CURTAINS FROM A LARGER ROOM.



AT LENGTH, A HAND AND AN ARM, SURPASSINGLY BEAUTIFUL, GLIDES THROUGH THE TAPESTRY. DARTAGNAN KNEELS AND KISSES THE HAND.



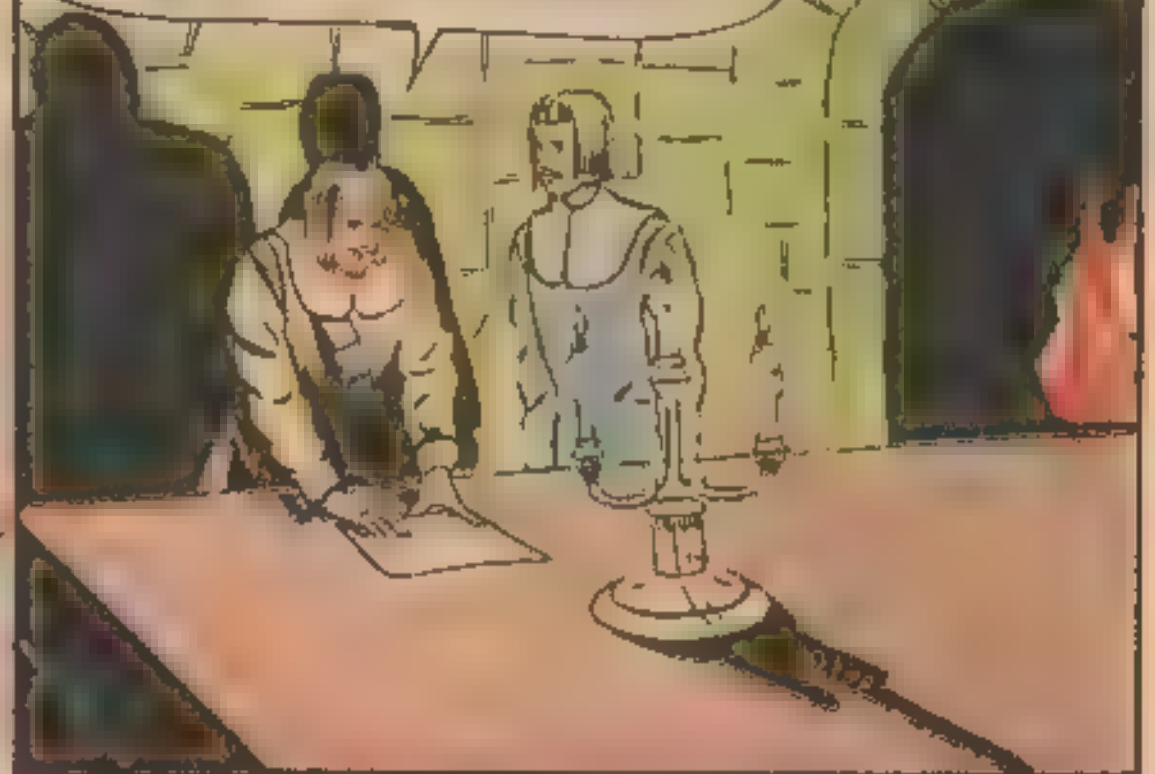
THE HAND IS WITHDRAWN, LEAVING IN HIS PLACE A BEAUTIFUL DIAMOND RING—HIS RECOMPENSE FROM THE QUEEN!



DARTAGNAN LEAVES THE BALL AND GOES HOME.

HERE IS A LETTER FOR YOU, MASTER!

AH! A RENDEZVOUS WITH CONSTANCE BONACEUX IN THE PAVILION OF ST. CLOUD AT TEN O'CLOCK!



THE FOLLOWING EVENING DARTAGNAN ARRIVES AT THE PAVILION TO KEEP HIS APPOINTMENT.



HOURS PASS AND HE BECOMES UNEASY. HE EXAMINES THE GROUND FOR SIGNS OF A STRUGGLE.



HIS WORST FEARS ARE REALIZED! HE PICKS UP A WOMAN'S TORN GLOVE!

NOM DE DIEU!! THE CARDINAL HAS CARRIED HER OFF AGAIN!



CLASSICS Illustrated

ARTAGNAN GOES TO DE TREVILLE'S HOTEL AND RELATES ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED.

HUM! ALL THE SAVORS OF HIS EMNENCE A LEAGUE OFF.

BUT WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

NOTHING. ABSOLUTELY NOTHING AT PRESENT. I WILL SEE THE QUEEN. YOU, MEANWHILE, GO OUT PARS AND LOOK FOR YOUR FRIENDS!

DETERMINED TO FOLLOW DE TREVILLE'S ADVICE, D'ARTAGNAN GOES HOME.

PACK OUR EQUIPMENT, PLANCHET, AND LET US DISCOVER WHAT HAS BECOME OF PORTHOS, ARAMIS AND ATHOS!

THEY SET OUT AND ARRIVE IN CHANTILLY, ALIGHTING AT THE SAME HOTEL THEY STOPPED AT ON THEIR FIRST JOURNEY.

THE HOST GREETS THEM.

AH! MONSIEUR. I BELIEVE THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME I HAVE SEEN YOU!

I WAS HERE TEN DAYS AGO. I WAS CONDUCTING SOME FRIENDS, ONE OF WHOM HAD A DISPUTE WITH A STRANGER.

AH! EXACTLY SO! IS IT NOT M. PORTHOS THAT YOUR LORDSHIP MEANS?

YES. THAT IS HE. I HOPE NOTHING HAS HAPPENED TO HIM.

HE IS WOUNDED BUT HE HAS FORBIDDEN ME STRICTLY TO SAY SO.

AND WHY SO?

HE IS VERY VAN, AND, DESPITE HIS BOASTING, WAS QUICKLY BROUGHT DOWN BY THE STRANGER.

THAT'S PORTHOS ALL OVER! CAN I SEE HIM?

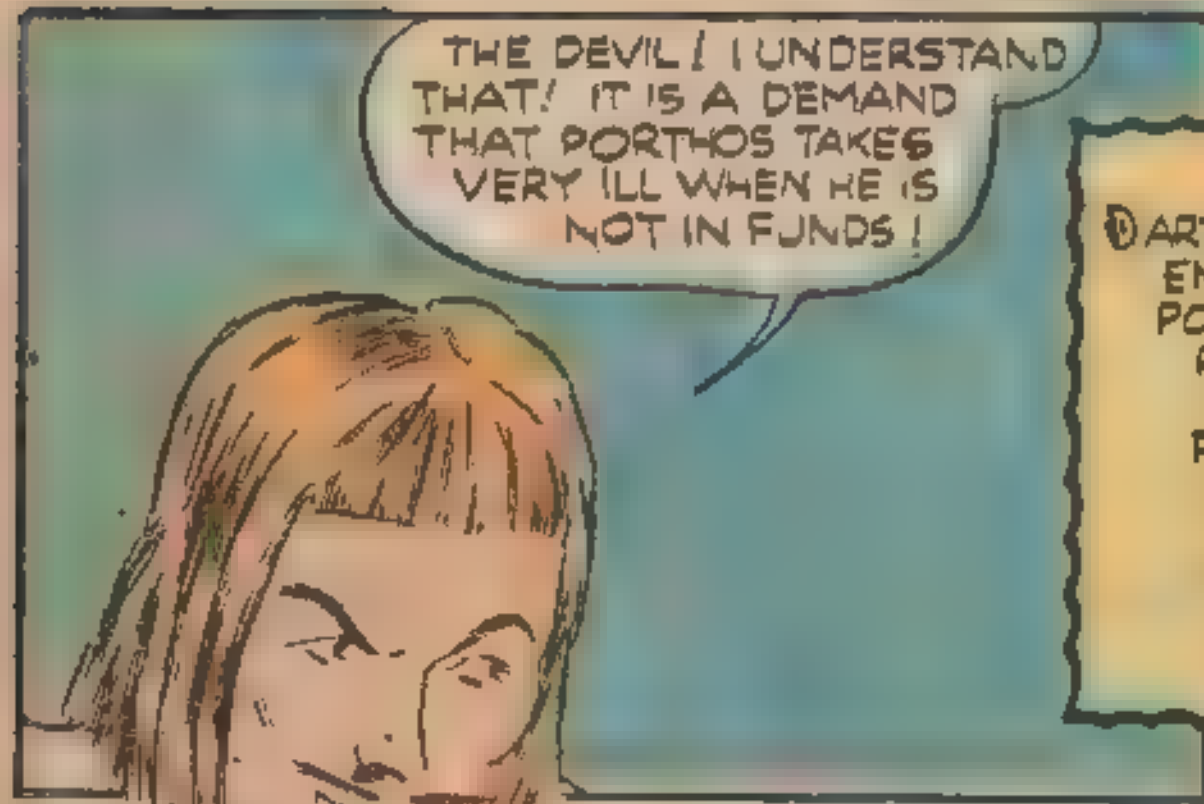
CERTAINLY; ONLY WARN HIM THAT IT IS YOU.

WARN HIM? WHY SHOULD I DO THAT?

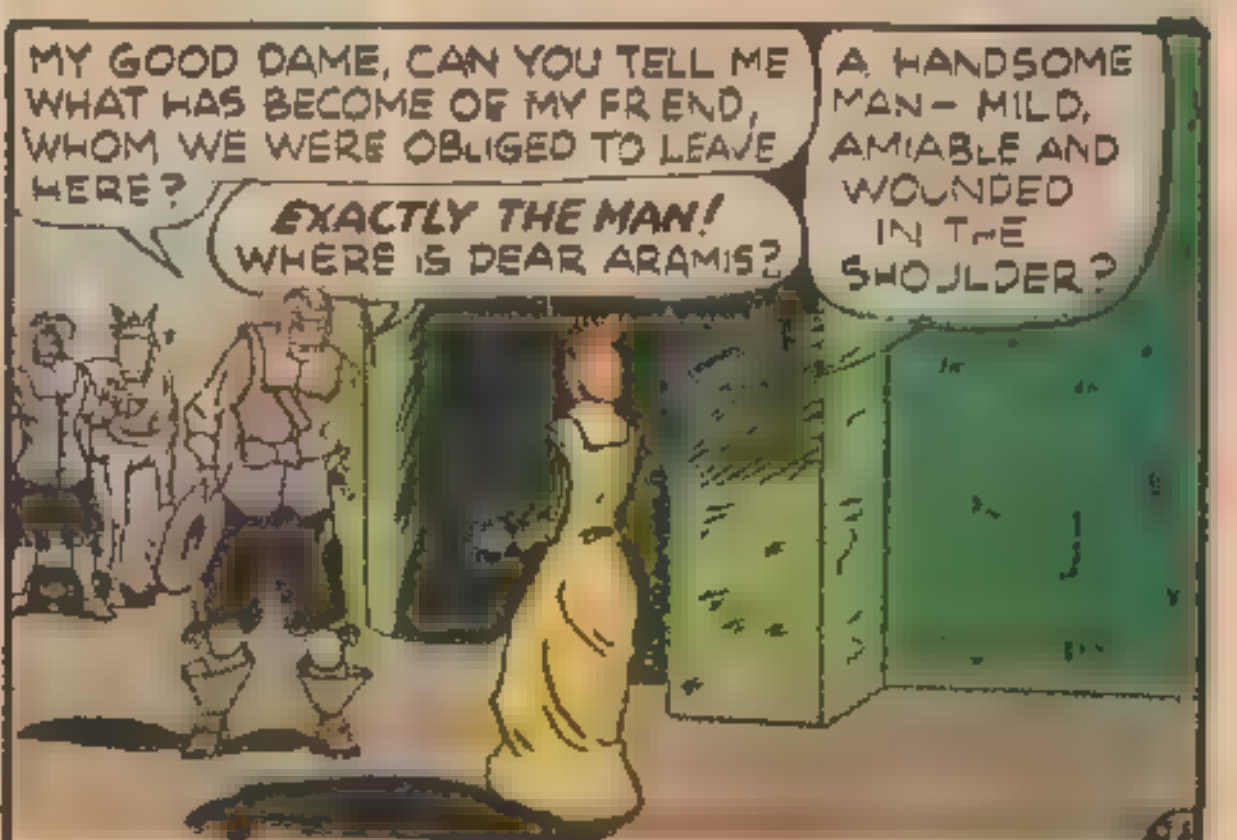
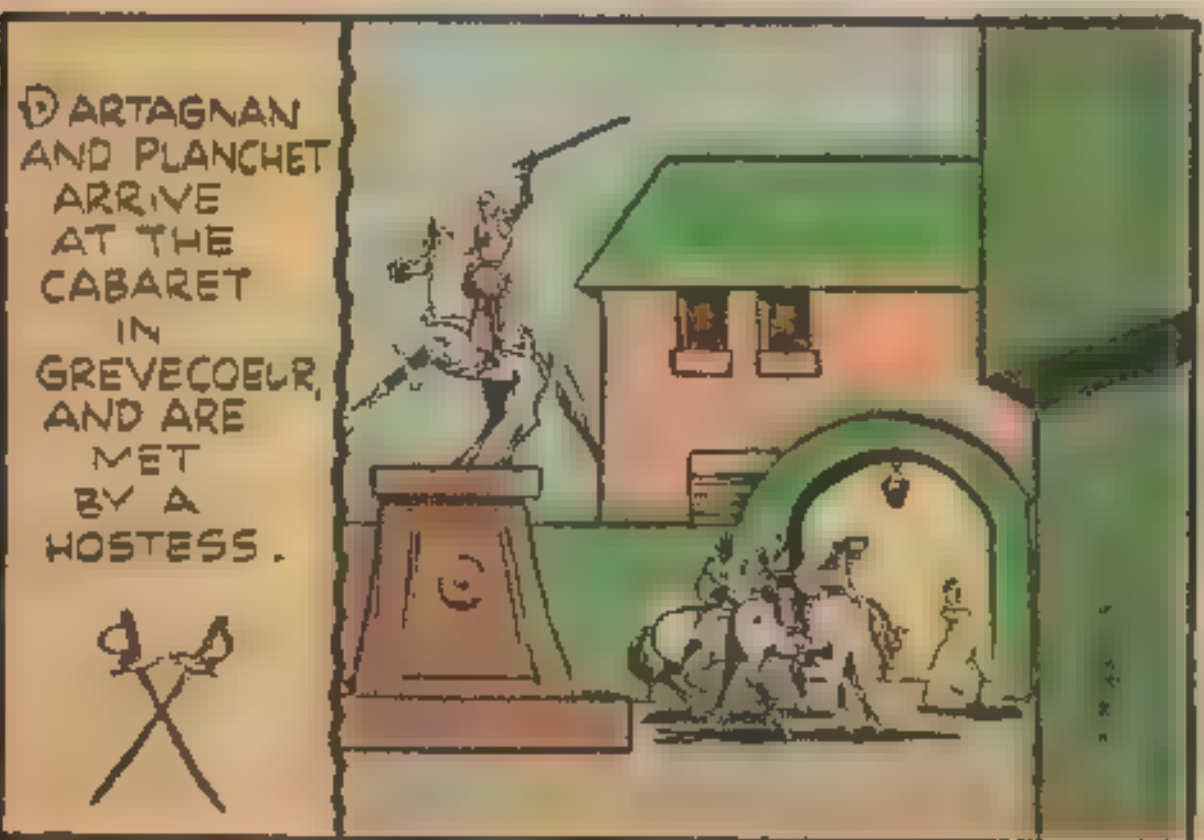
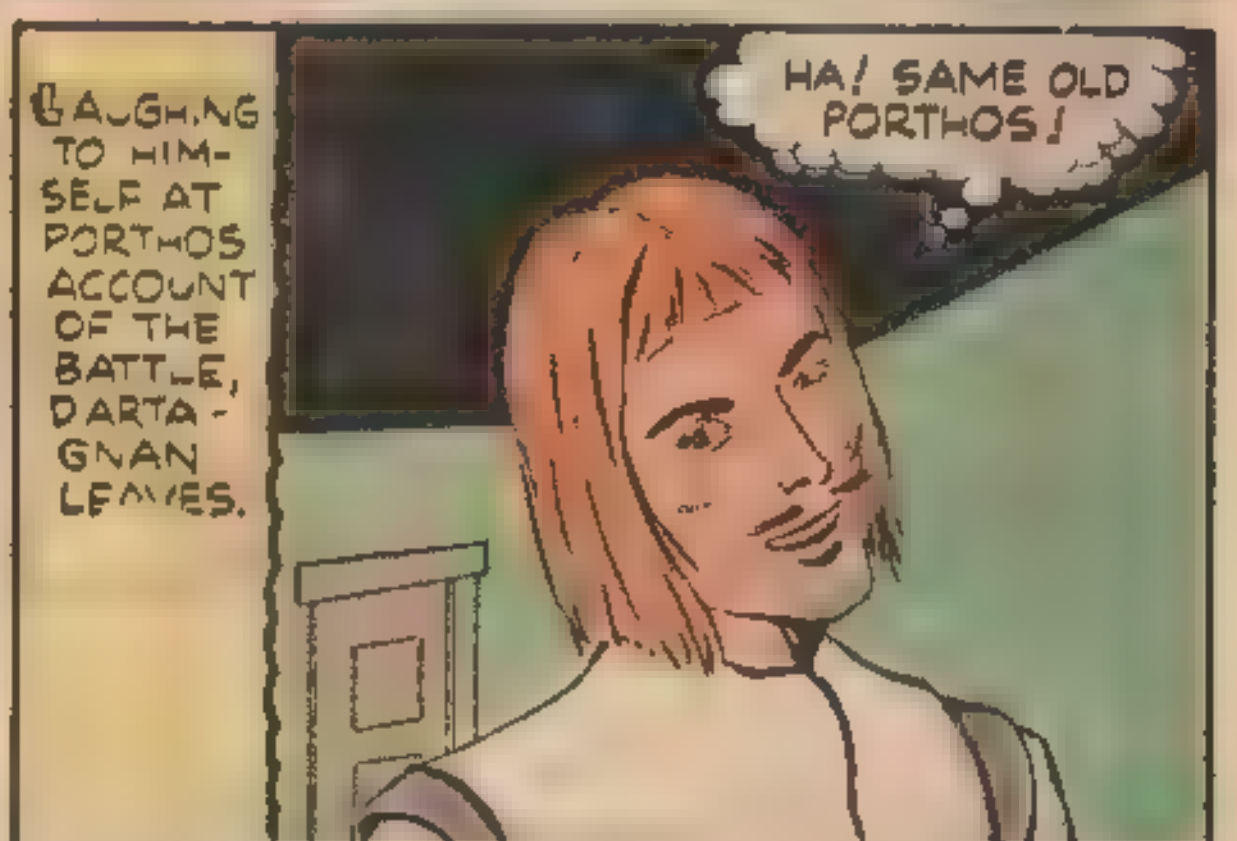
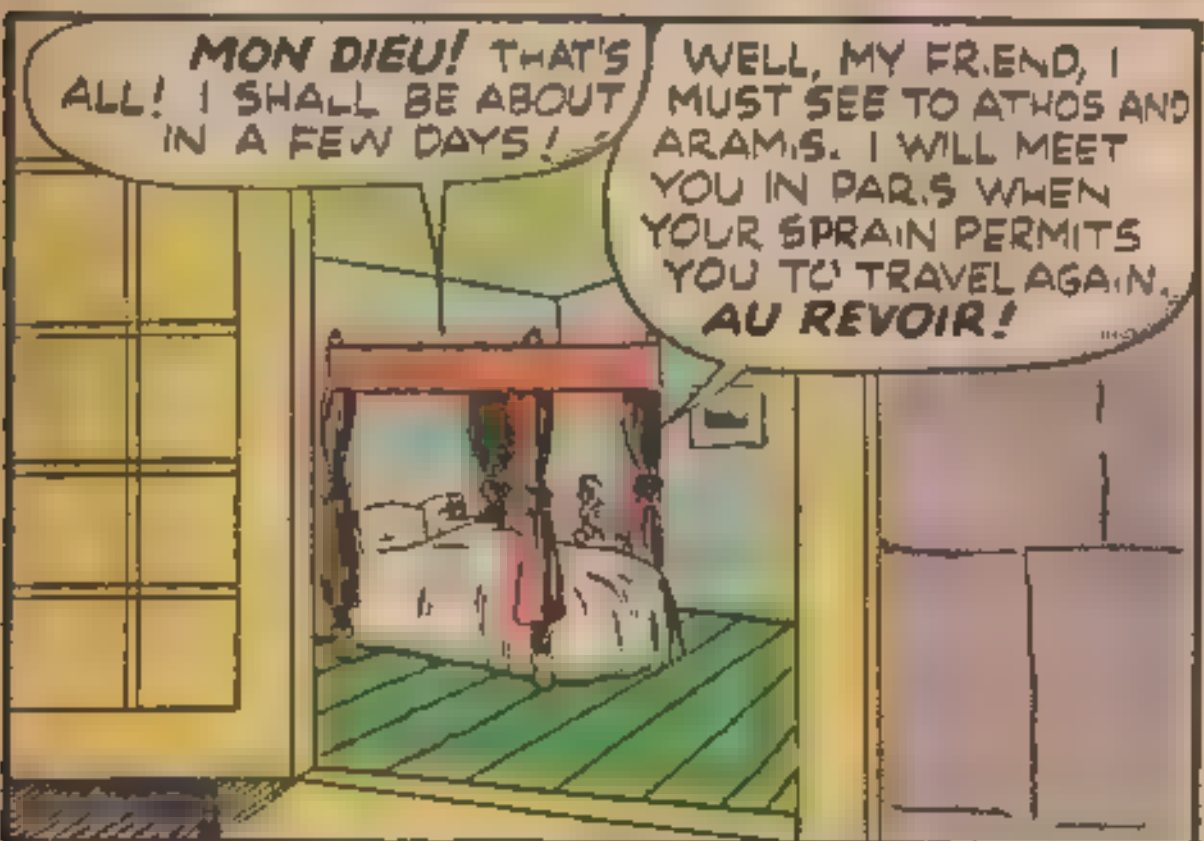
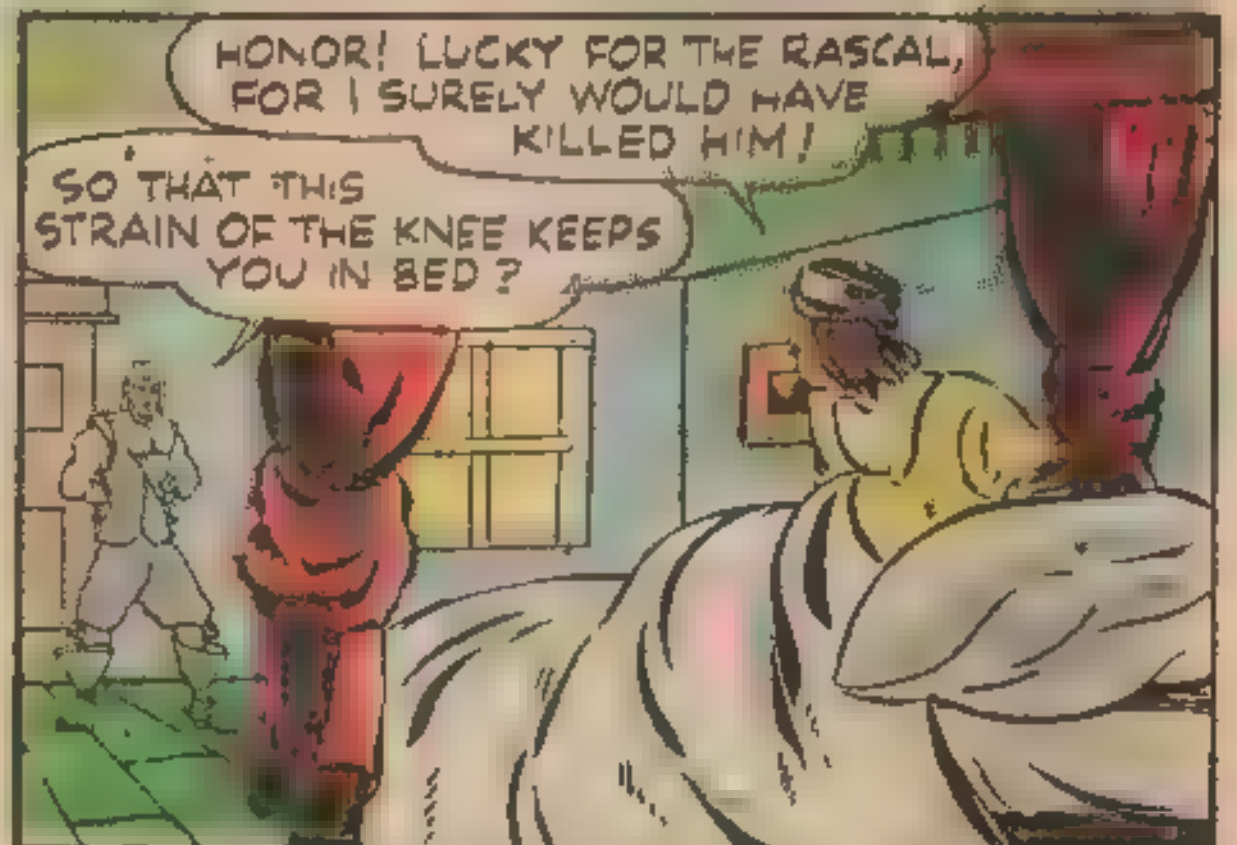
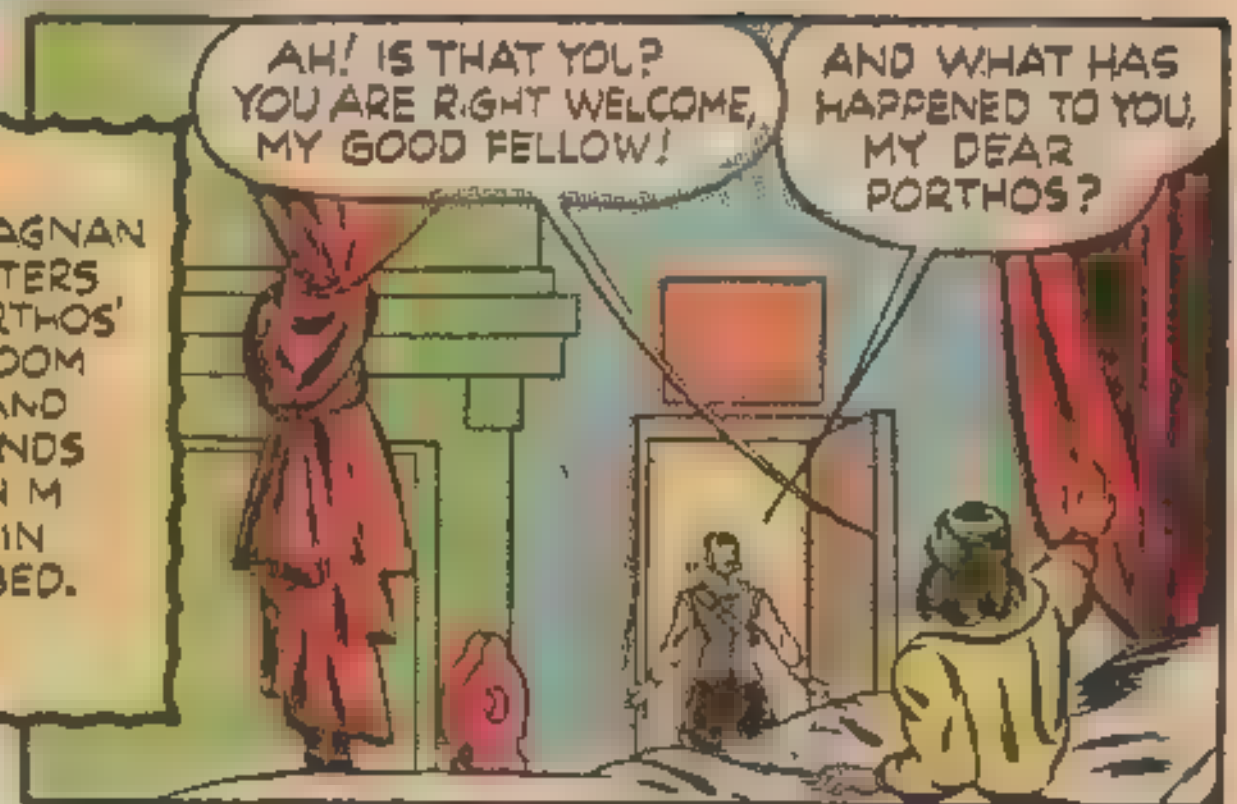
M. PORTHOS MAY IMAGINE YOU BELONG TO THE HOTEL AND BLOW OUT YOUR BRAINS!

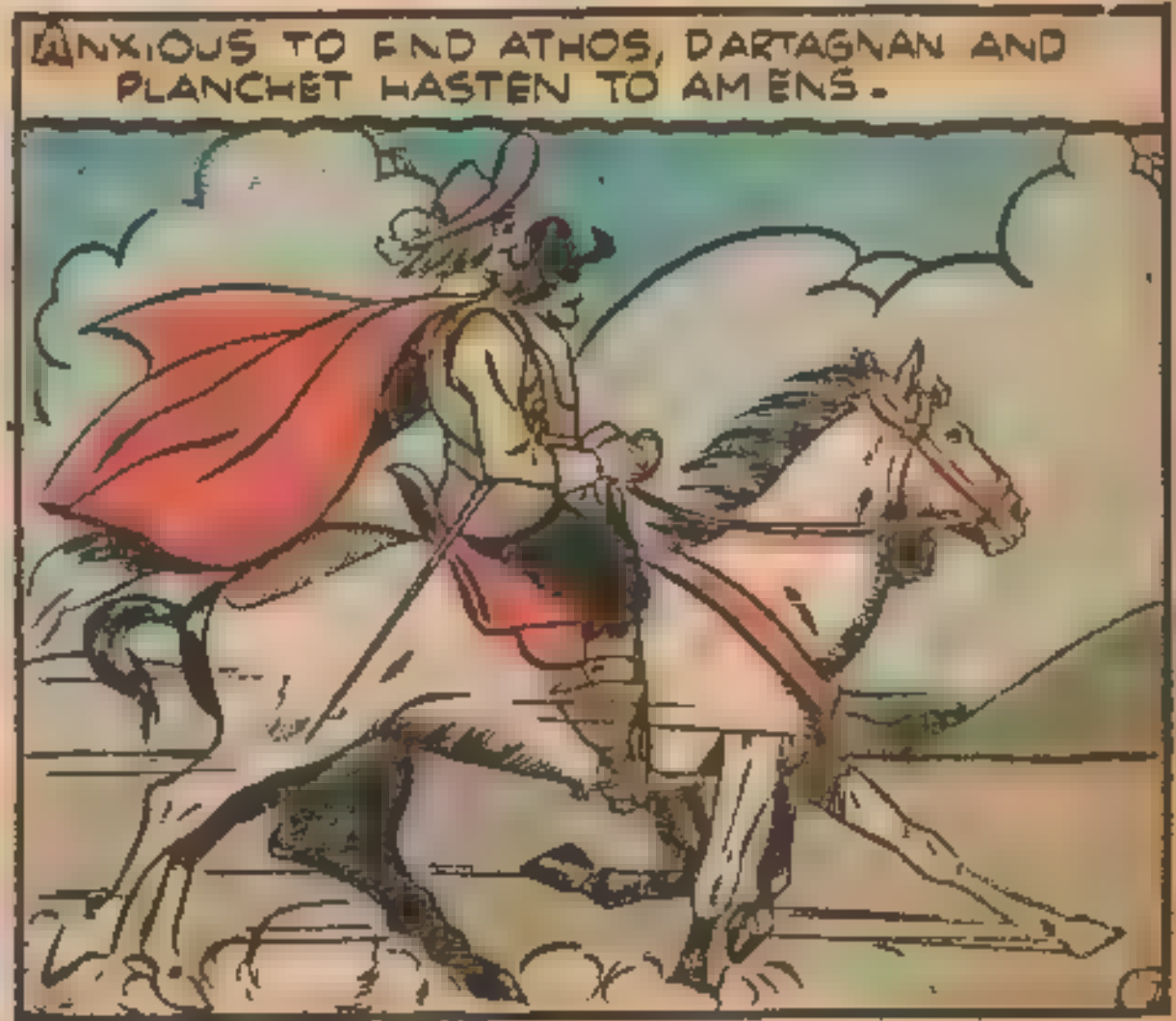
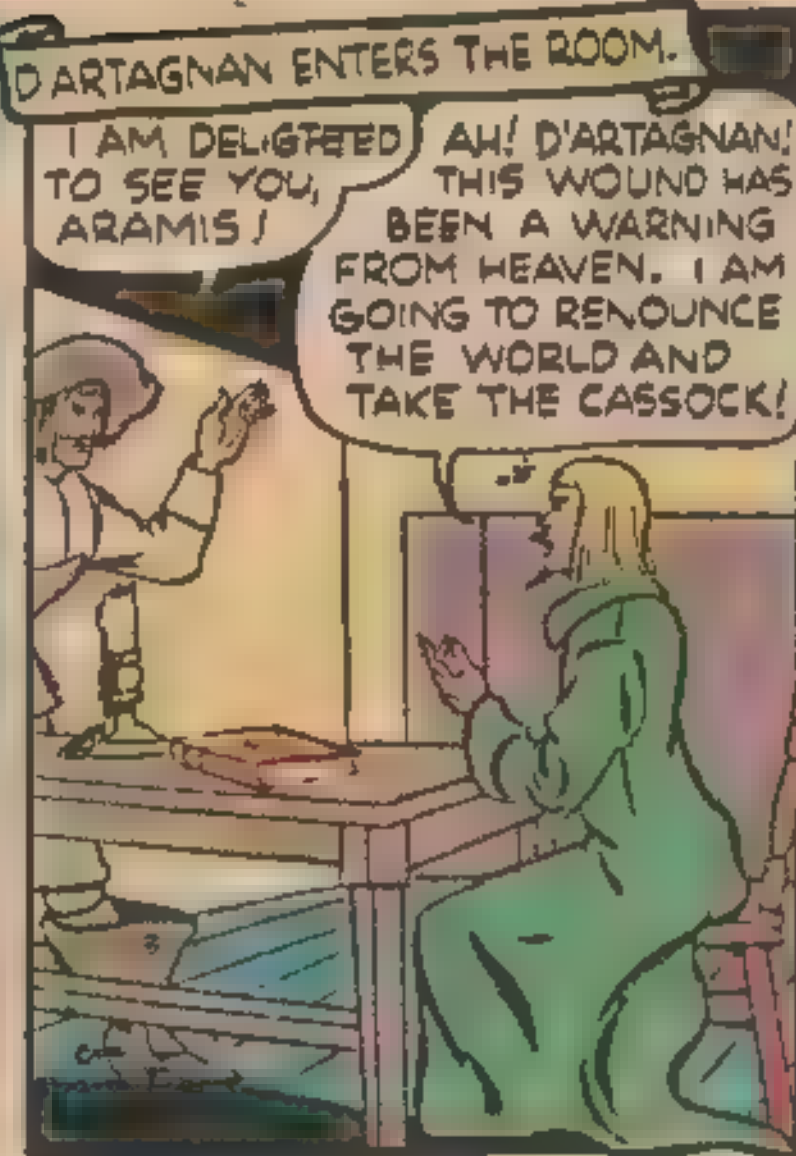
WHY? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?

WE ASKED HIM FOR MONEY!



DARTAGNAN ENTERS PORTHOS' ROOM AND FINDS HIM IN BED.





THEY ENTER THE CURSED HOTEL WHERE THEY HAD LAST SEEN ATHOS.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THAT GENTLEMAN WHOM YOU ACCUSED TWELVE DAYS AGO OF PASSING BAD MONEY?

AH, MONSIEUR! HOW DEARLY HAVE I PAID FOR THAT FAULT!

THAT GENTLEMAN, I SAY! WHAT HAS BECOME OF HIM?

DEIGN TO LISTEN TO ME, MONSIEUR, AND BE MERCIFUL!

SPEAK, YOU WRETCH!

AFTER KILLING ONE MAN AND SAVAGELY WOUNDING TWO OTHERS, HE AND HIS LACKEY BARRICADED THEMSELVES IN MY CELLAR.

AND WHERE IS HE NOW?

IN THE CELLAR, WHERE HE AND HIS SERVANT HAVE EATEN ALL MY FOOD AND DRUNK ALL MY WINE!

WHAT! YOU SCOUNDREL! YOU HAVE KEPT HIM IN THE CELLAR ALL THIS TIME!

MERCIFUL HEAVEN! HE PERSISTS IN REMAINING THERE - WE CANNOT GET HIM OUT!

SO FROM THAT TIME -?

-SO FROM THAT TIME HE HAS RUINED ME! ALL MY PROVISIONS ARE THERE AND HE REFUSES ME ADMITTANCE! I AM FORCED TO TURN AWAY TRAVELERS FOR WANT OF FOOD AND DRINK!

LAUGHING HEARTILY, D'ARTAGNAN RESCUES ATHOS AND GRIMAUD.

HOLA! MY FRIENDS - YOUR SIEGE IS OVER!

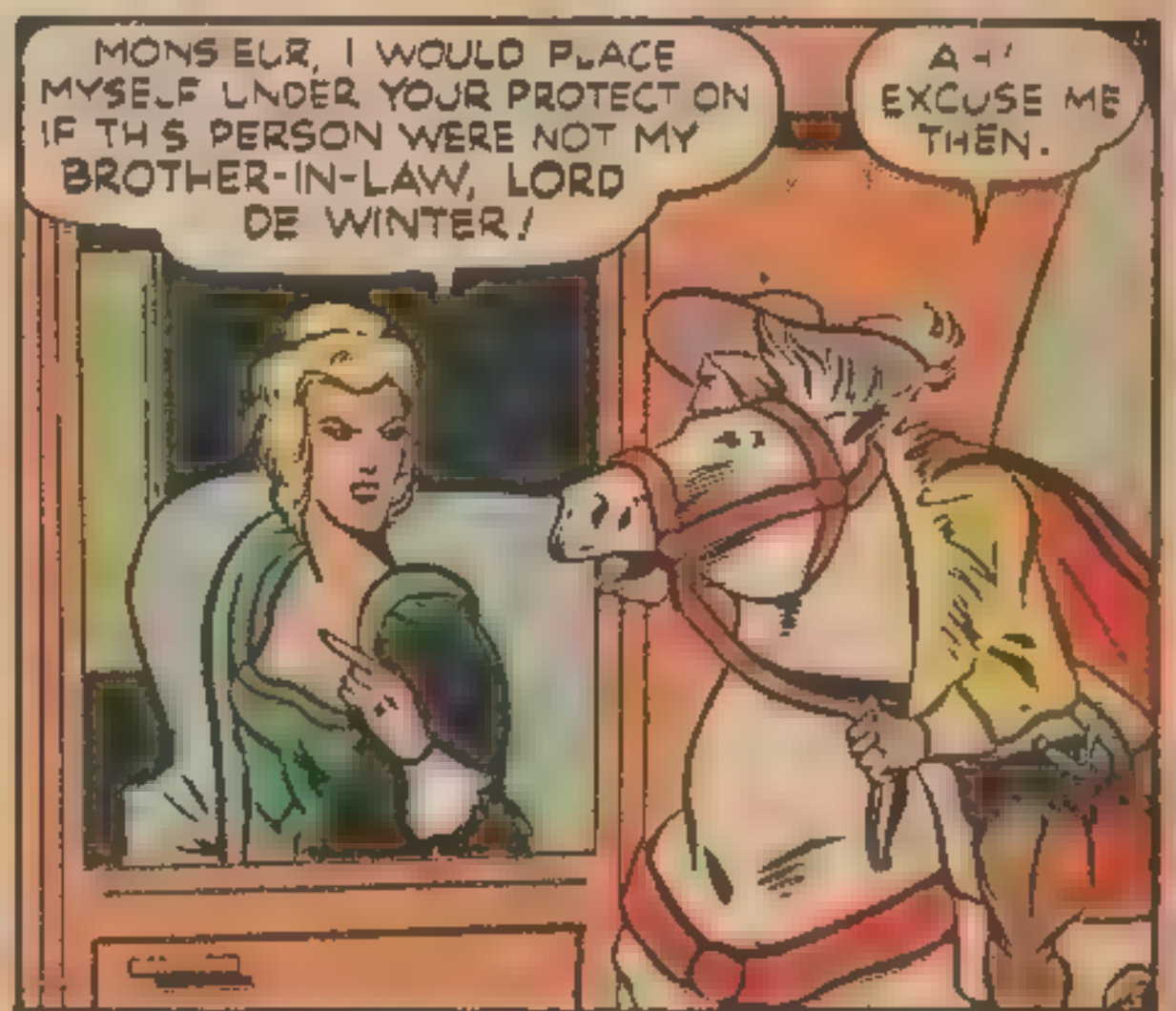
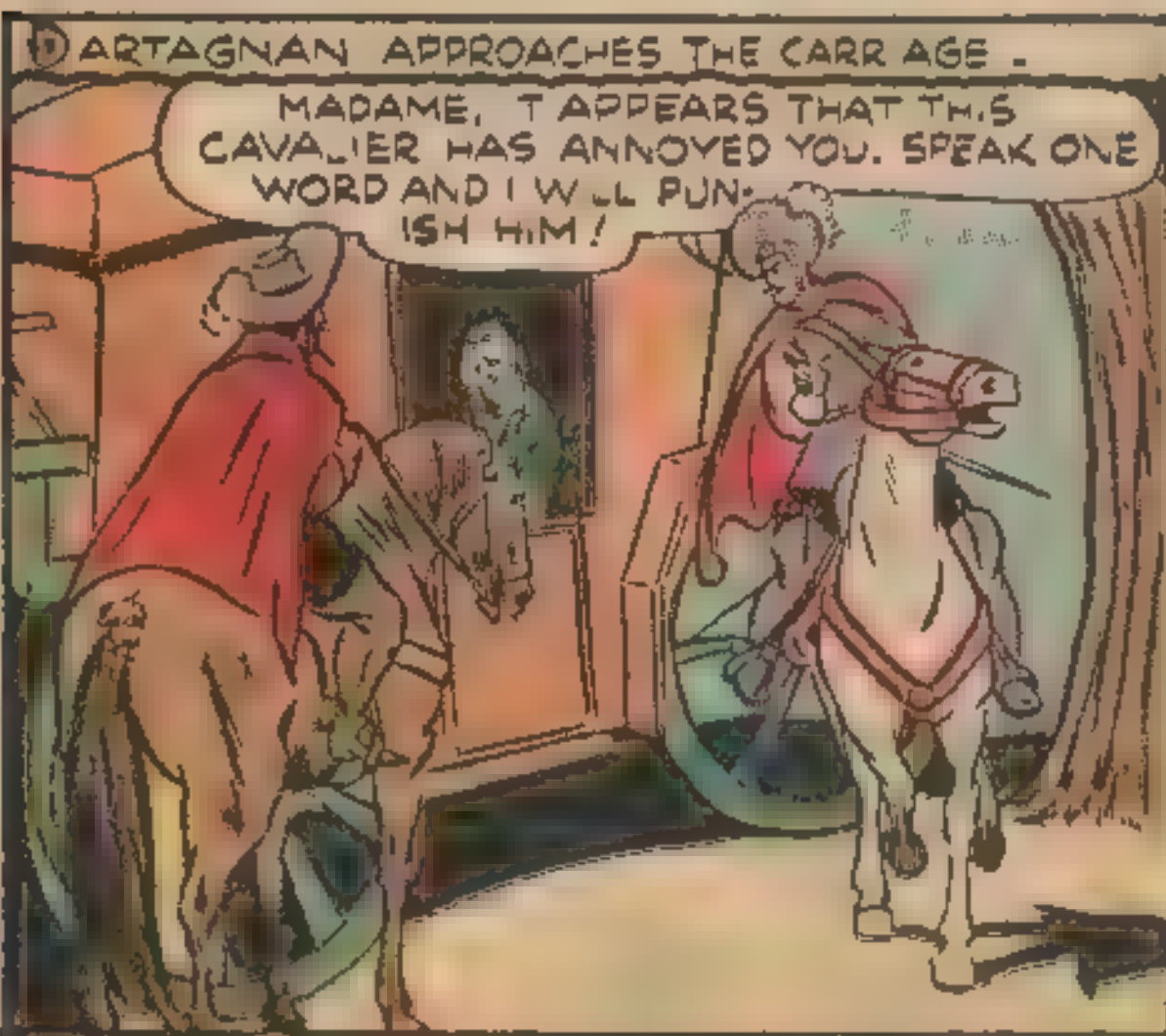
THEY SIT DOWN TO DRINK AND D'ARTAGNAN TELLS ATHOS HOW HE LOST HIS MADAME BONACIEUX.

TRIFLES! NOTHING BUT TRIFLES!

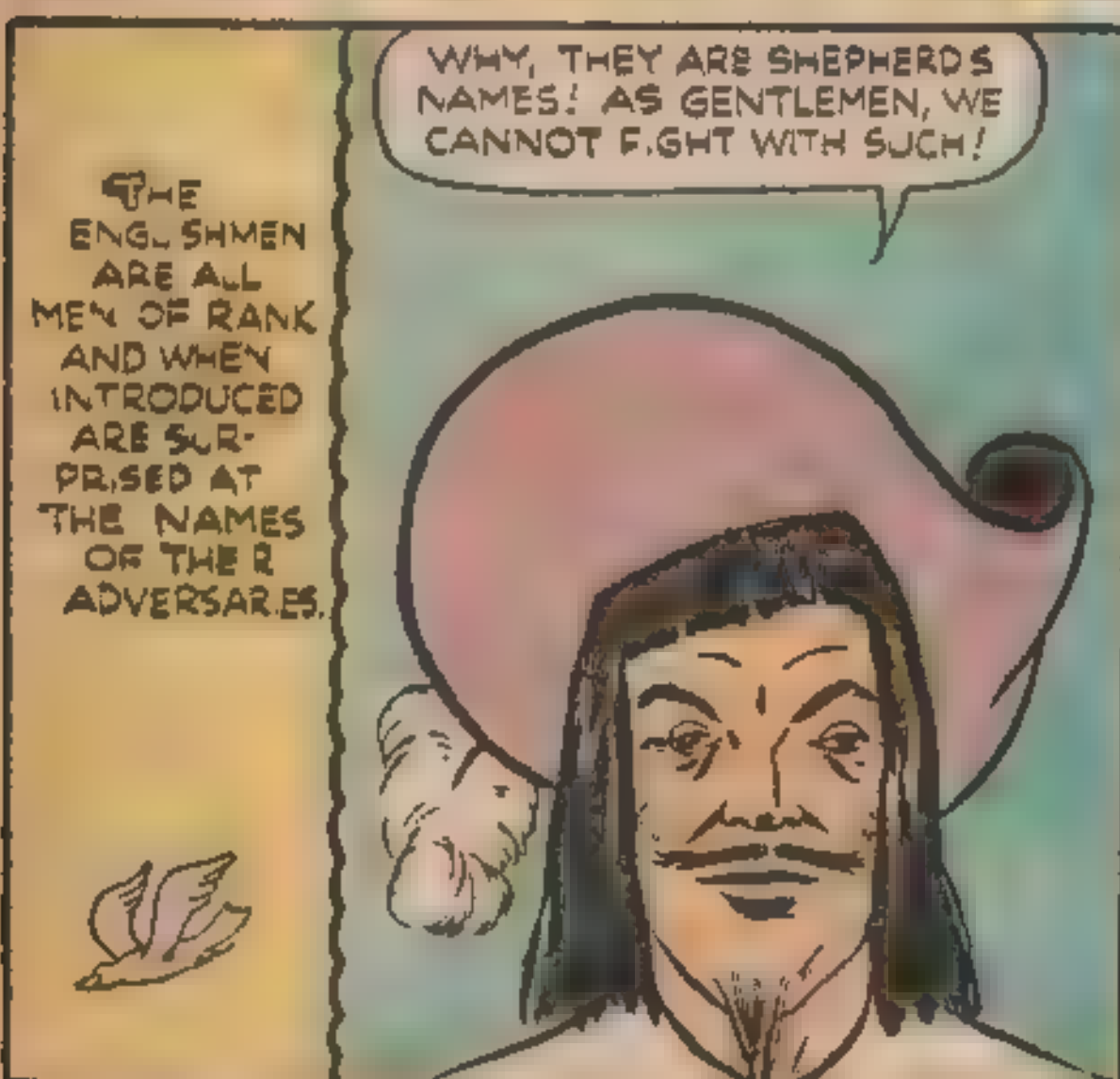
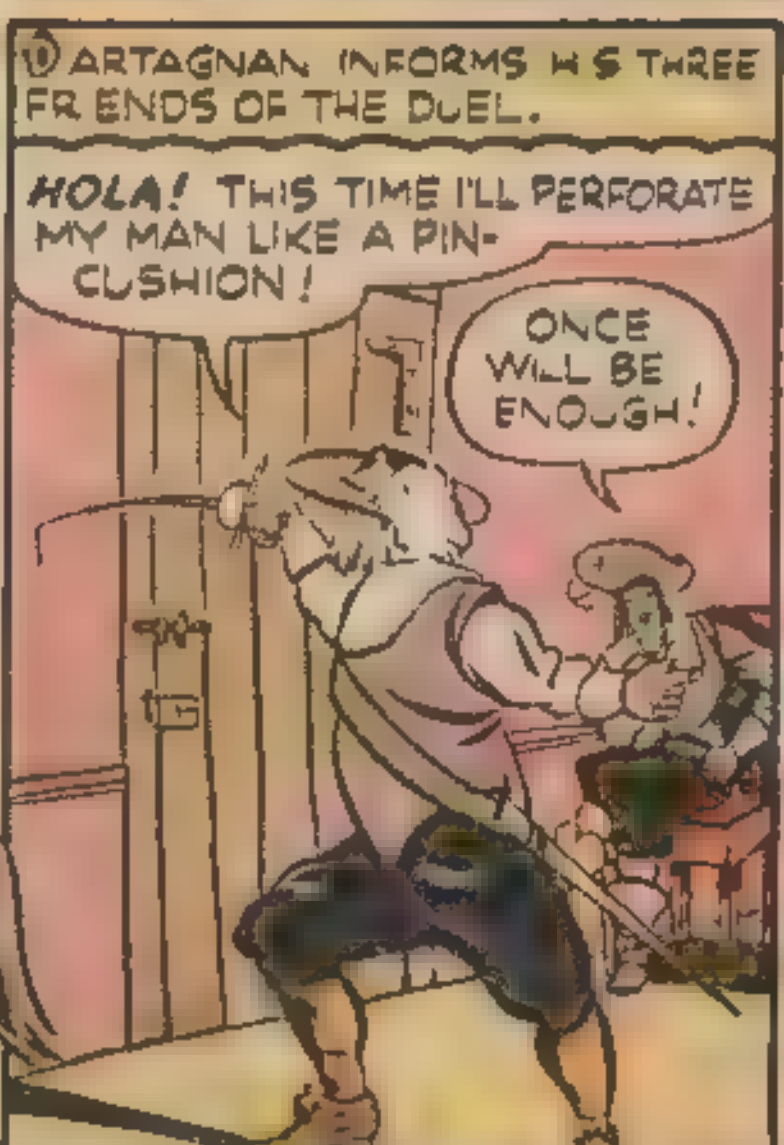
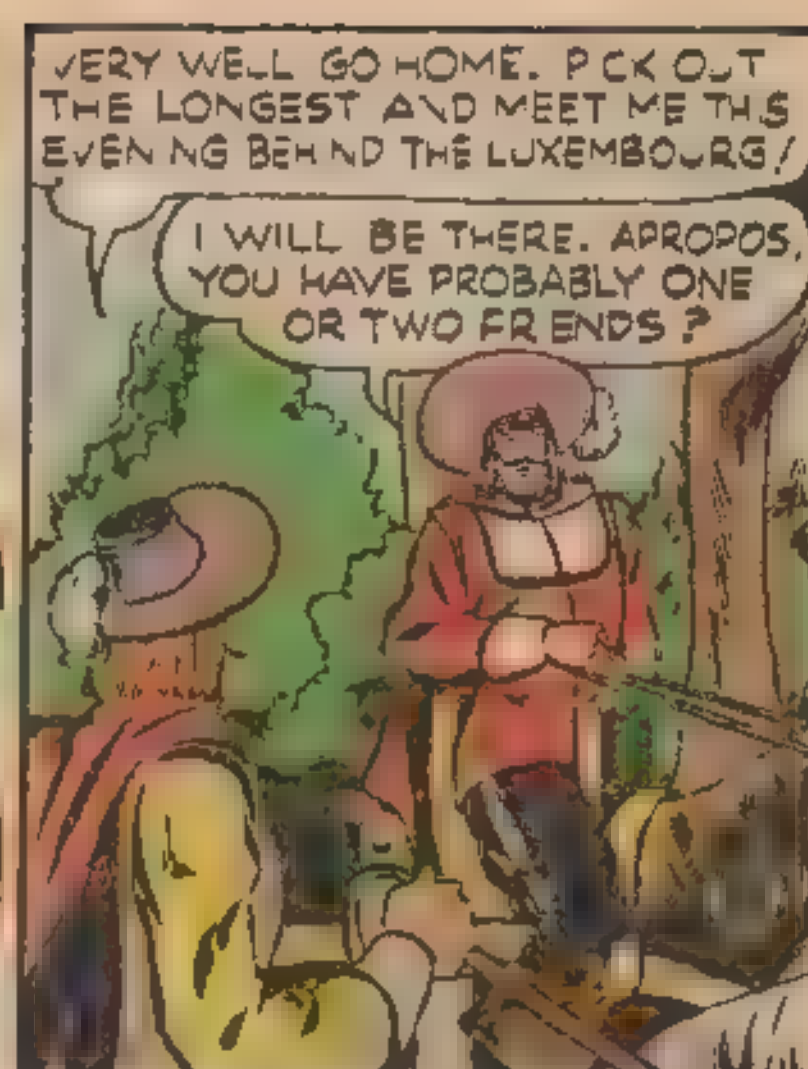
THAT COMES VERY ILL FROM YOU WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN IN LOVE!

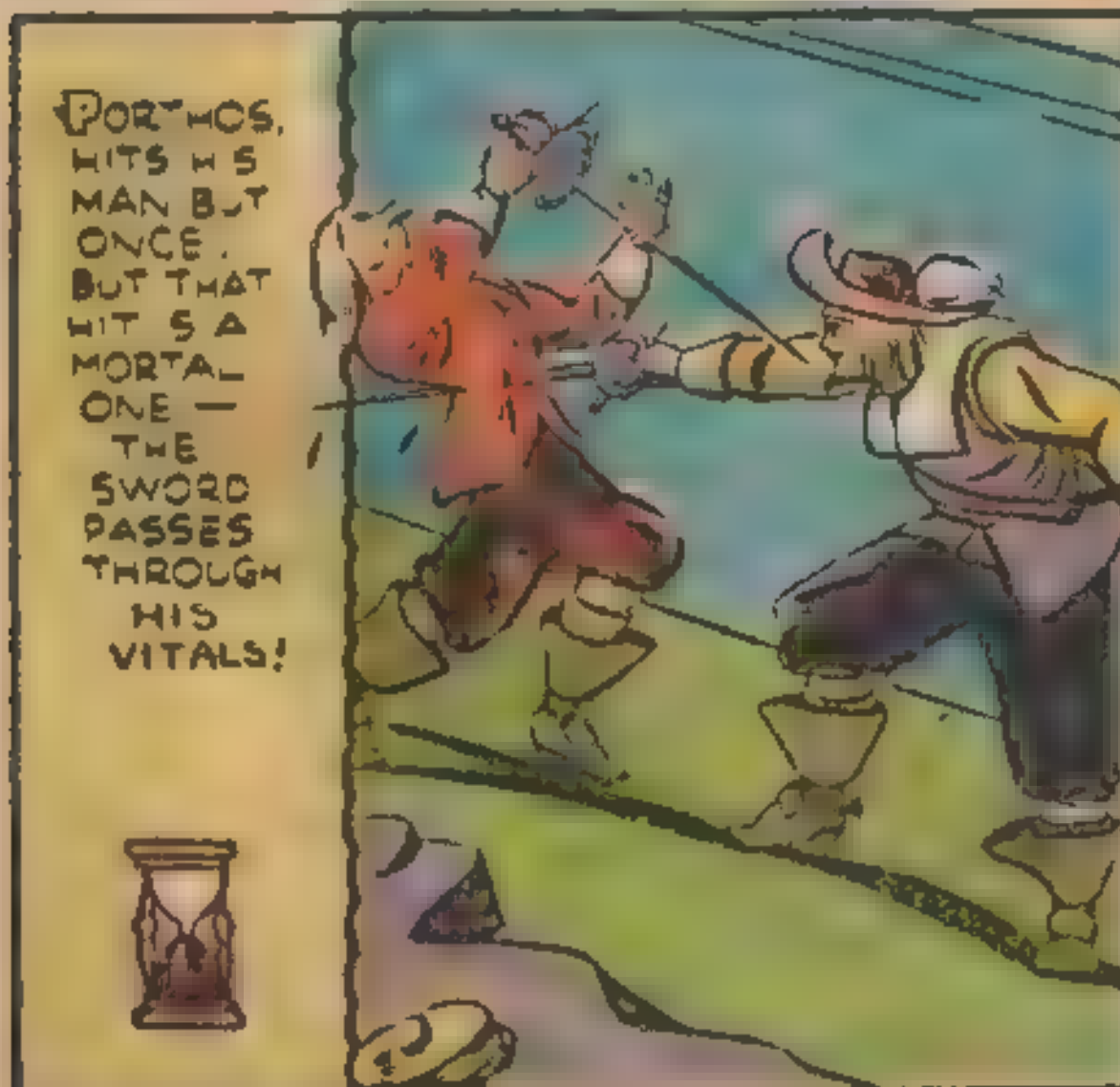
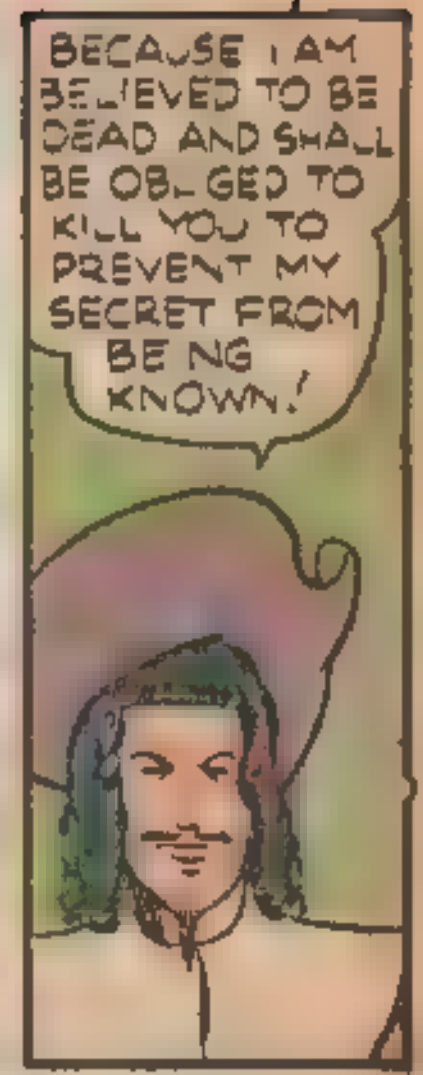
PARDIEU! I SHALL RELATE TO YOU A REAL TALE OF LOVE!

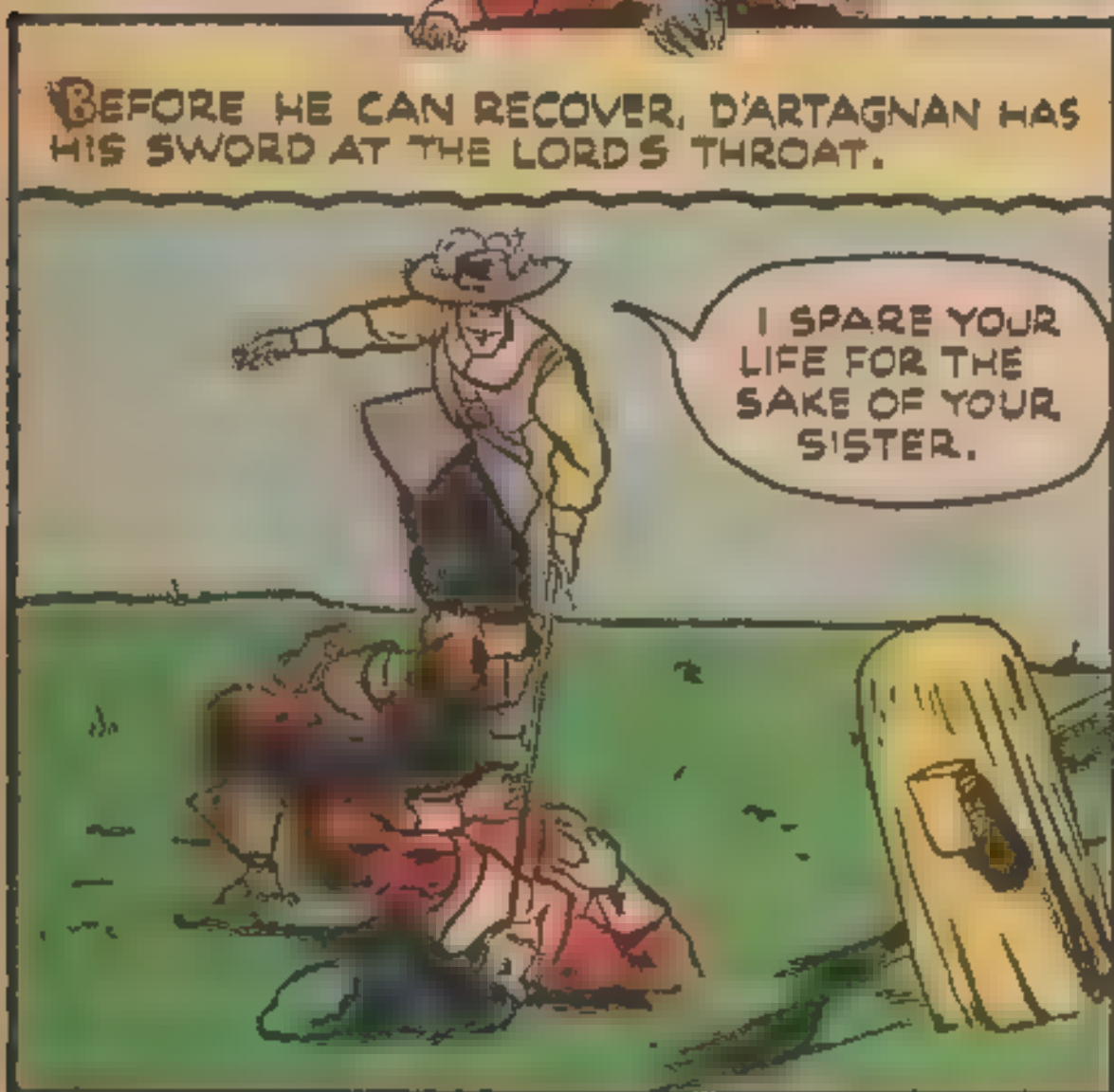
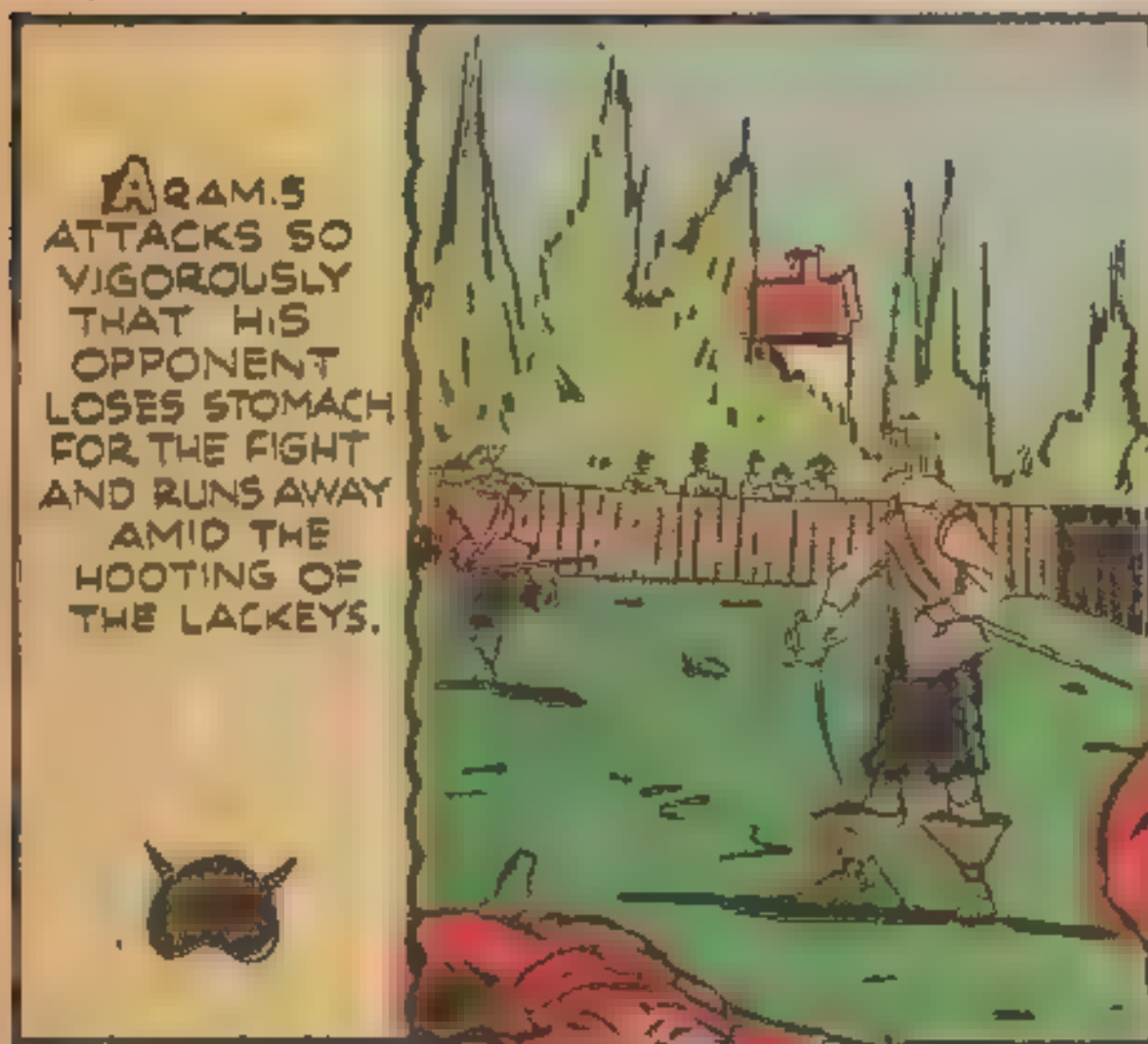
CLASSICS Illustrated



CLASSICS Illustrated



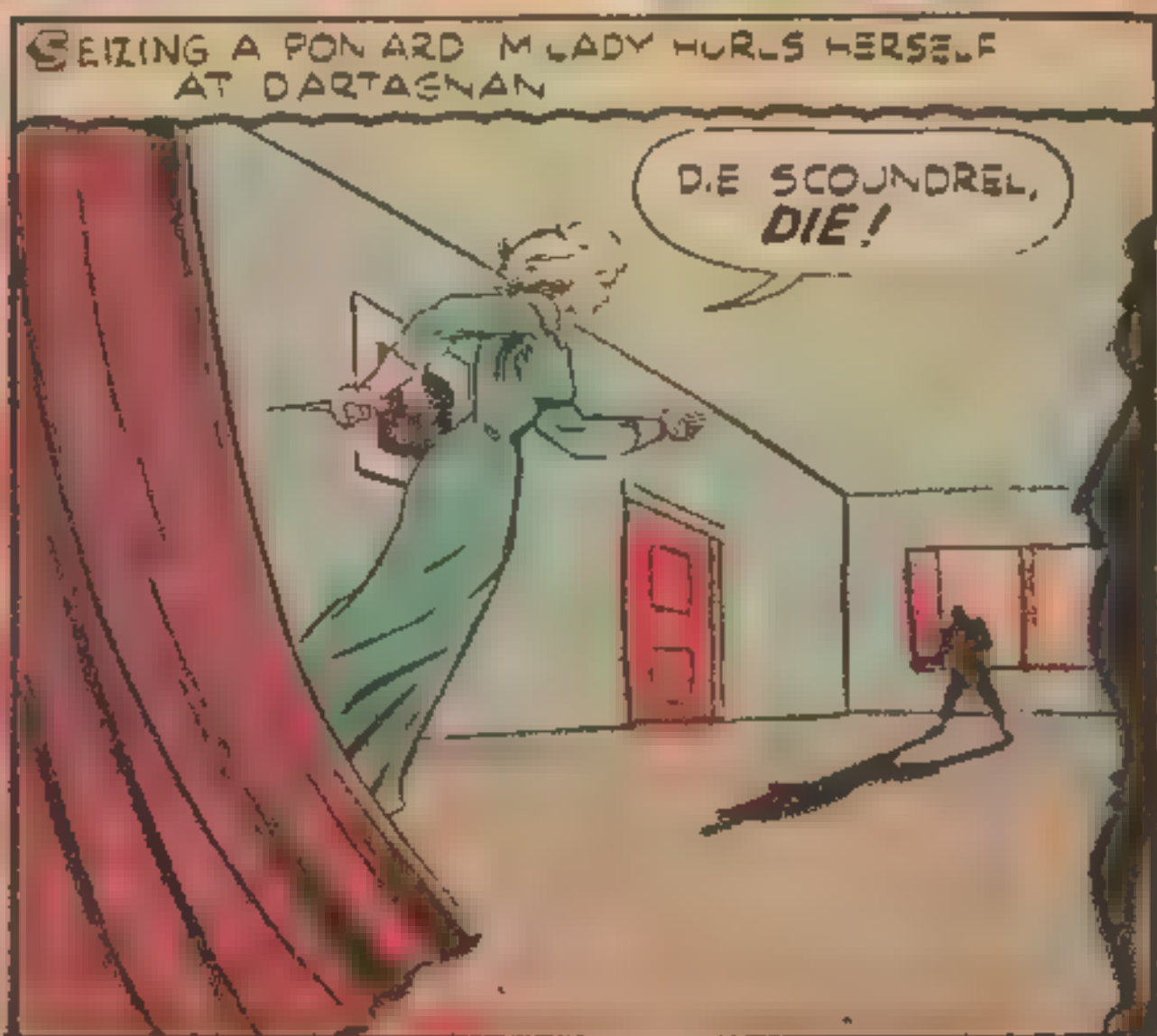
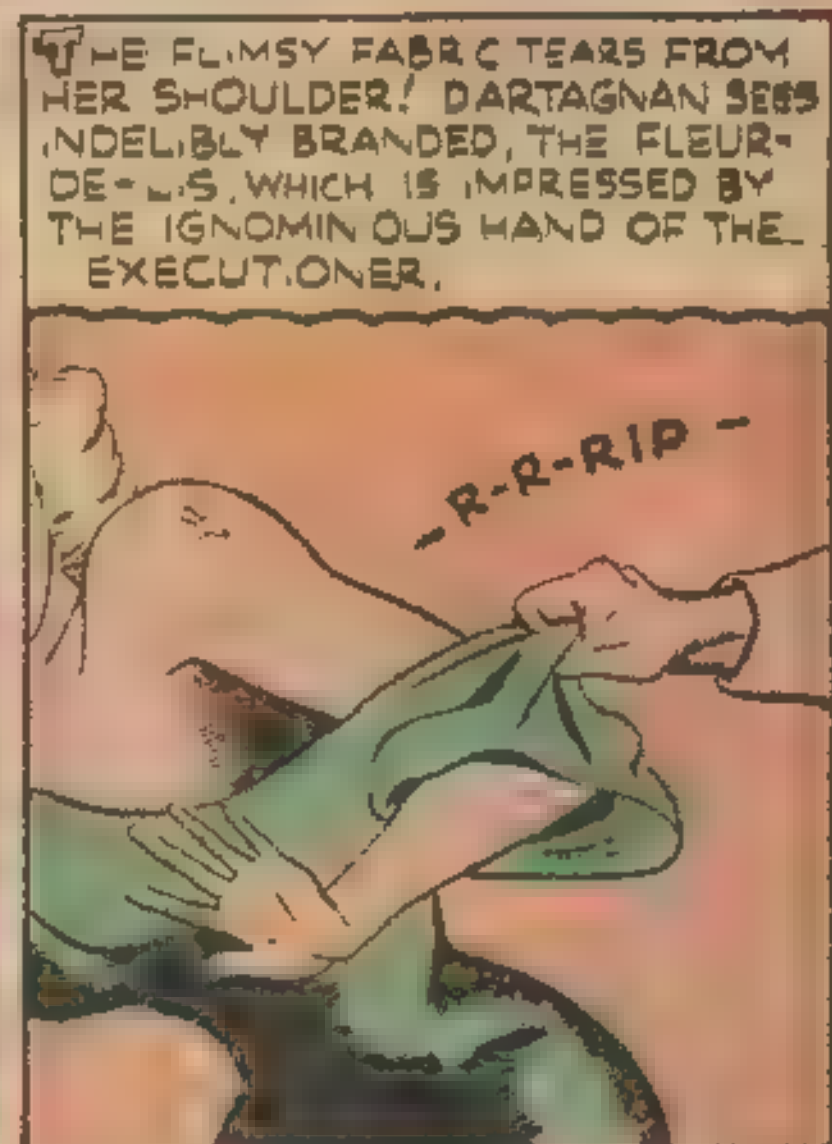
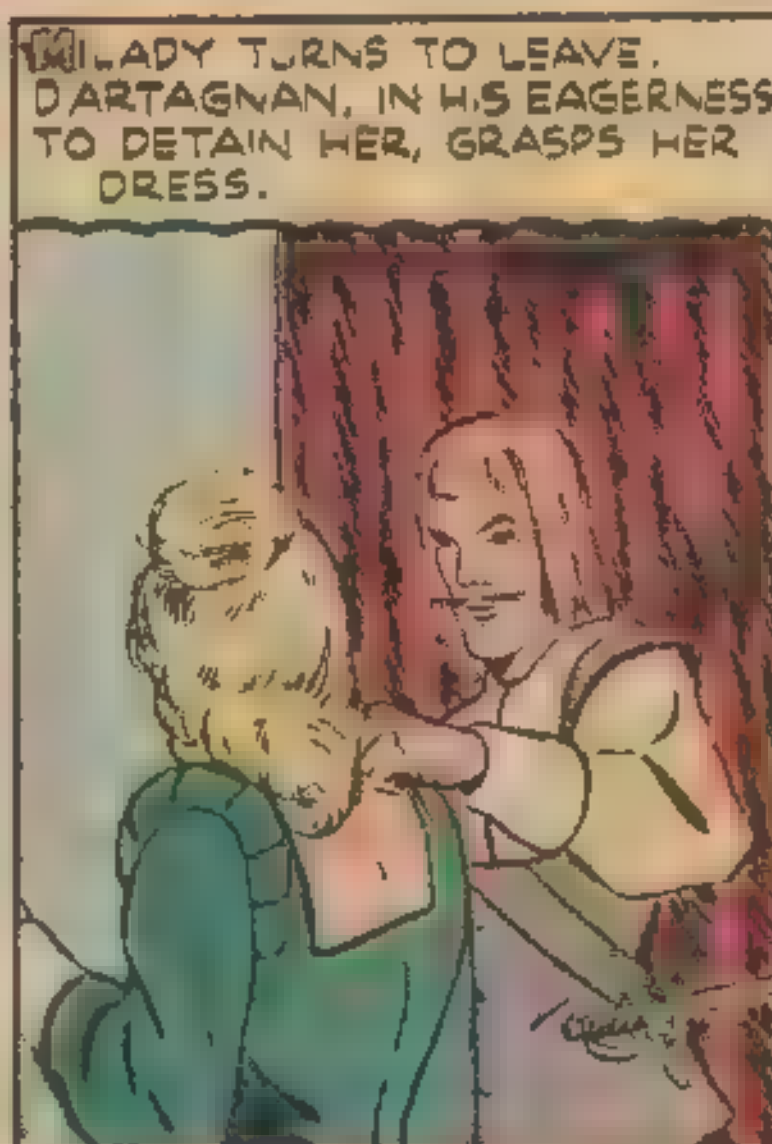
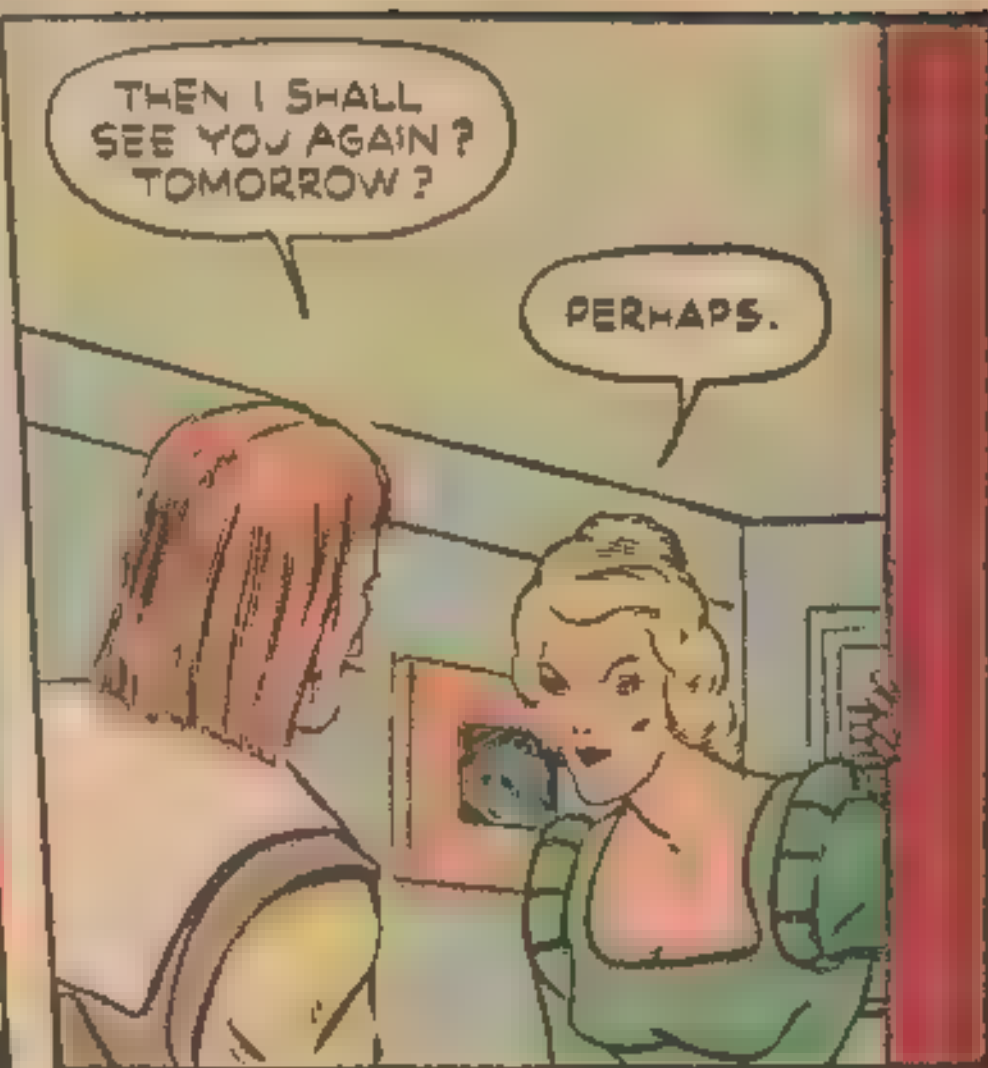
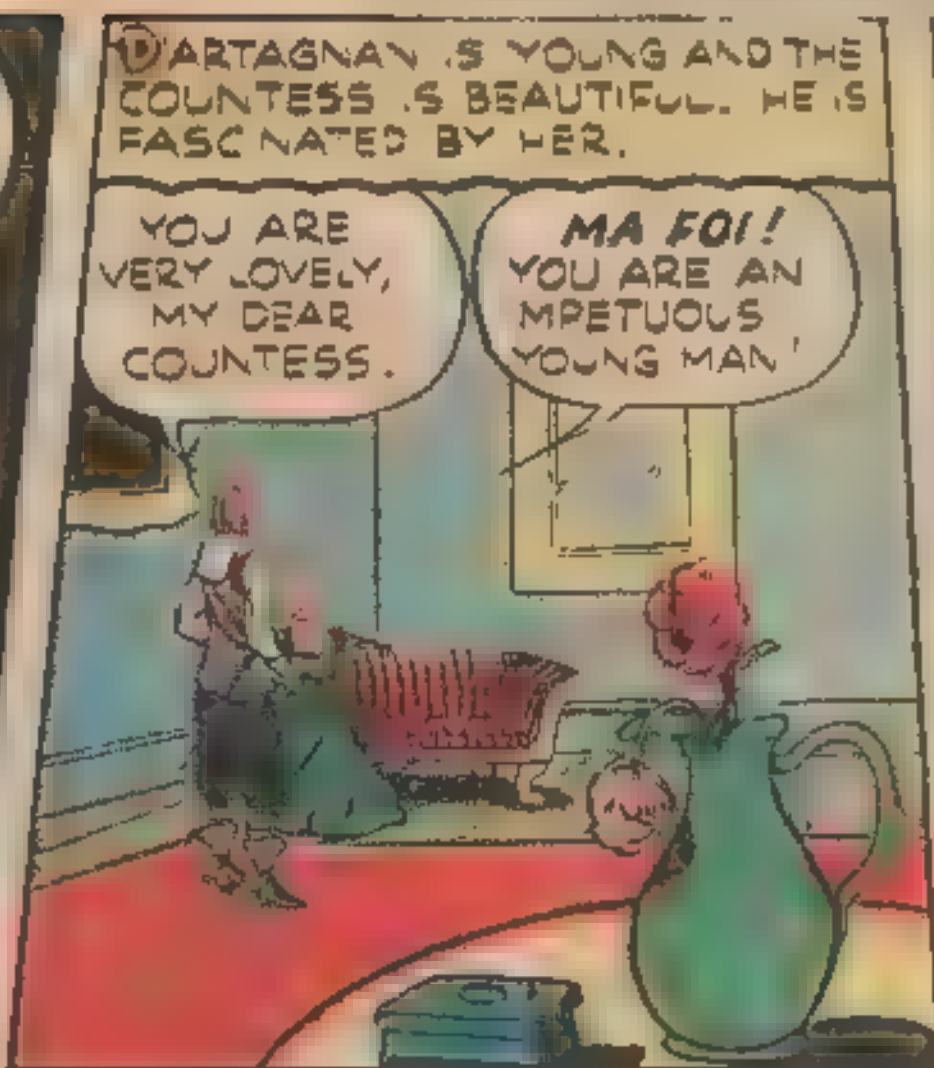




D'ARTAGNAN, ANXIOUS TO DISCOVER M LADY'S CONNECTION WITH THE MAN OF MEUNG, ACCEPTS.

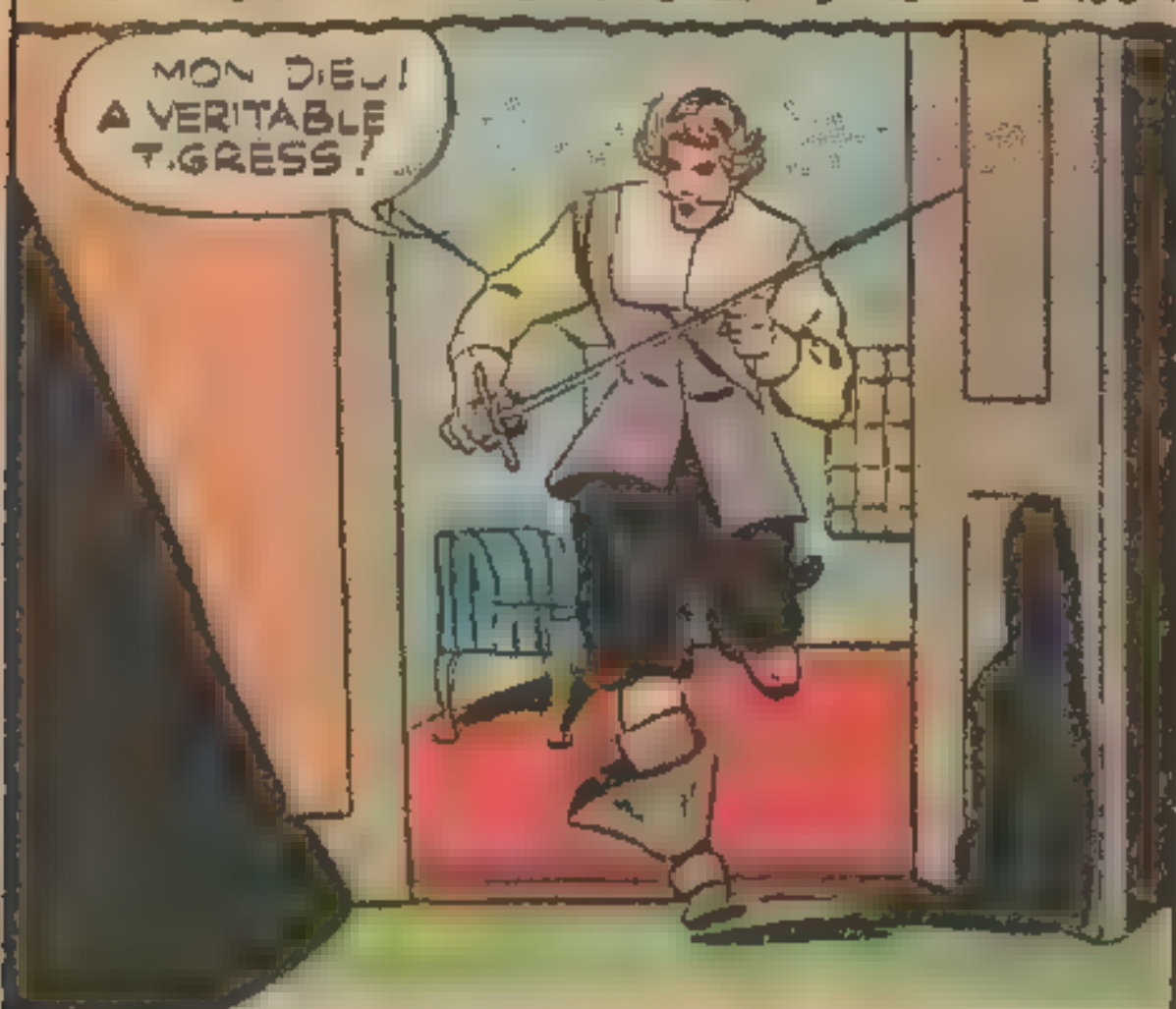


CLASSICS Illustrated





DARTAGNAN MANEUVERS HIMSELF TO THE DOOR AND THEN WITH A SPRING LEAPS FROM THE ROOM.



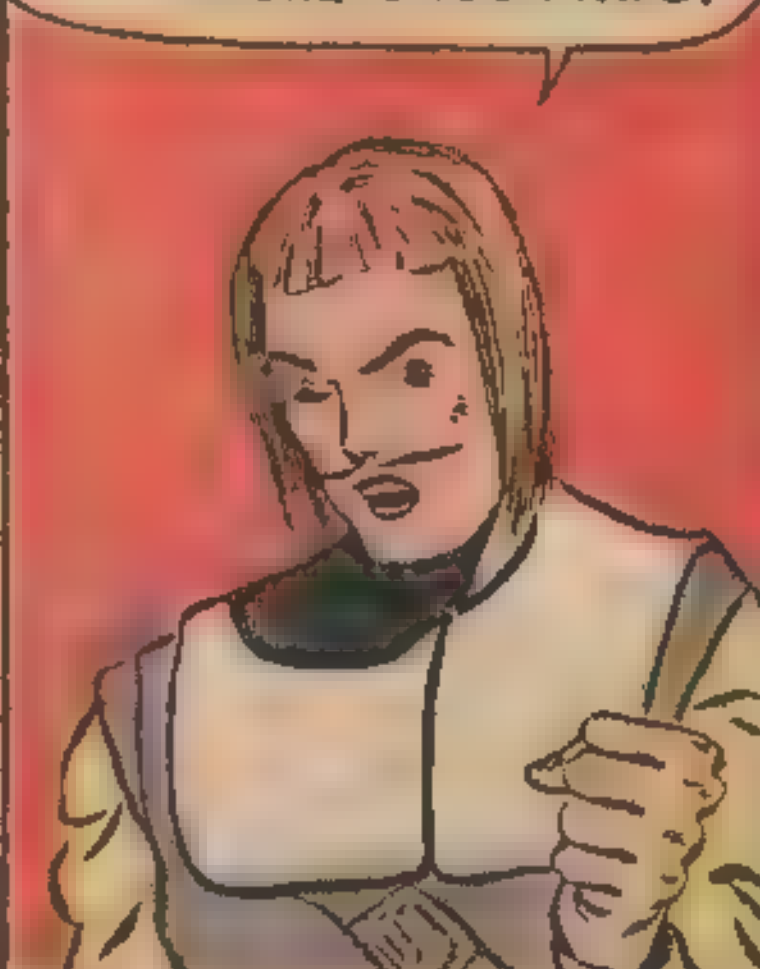
DARTAGNAN RUNS AT FULL SPEED ACROSS HALF OF PARIS AND ENTERS ATHOS' APARTMENT.



ATHOS PREPARE YOURSELF TO HEAR AN INCREDIBLE - AN UNHEARD OF STORY



MY LADY IS MARKED WITH A FLEUR-DE-LIS ON HER SHOULDER! ATHOS! SHE IS YOUR WIFE!



BEFORE ATHOS CAN RECOVER HIS COMPOSURE AT THE STARTLING NEWS, PORTHOS AND ARAMIS ENTER.

GENTLEMEN, FRANCE IS AT WAR WITH ENGLAND! WE MUST ACCOMPANY THE KING TO THE SIEGE OF LA ROCHELLE!



THE FOUR FRIENDS GATHER THEIR EQUIPMENT, AND, FOLLOWED BY THEIR LACKEYS, JOIN THEIR COMPANIES



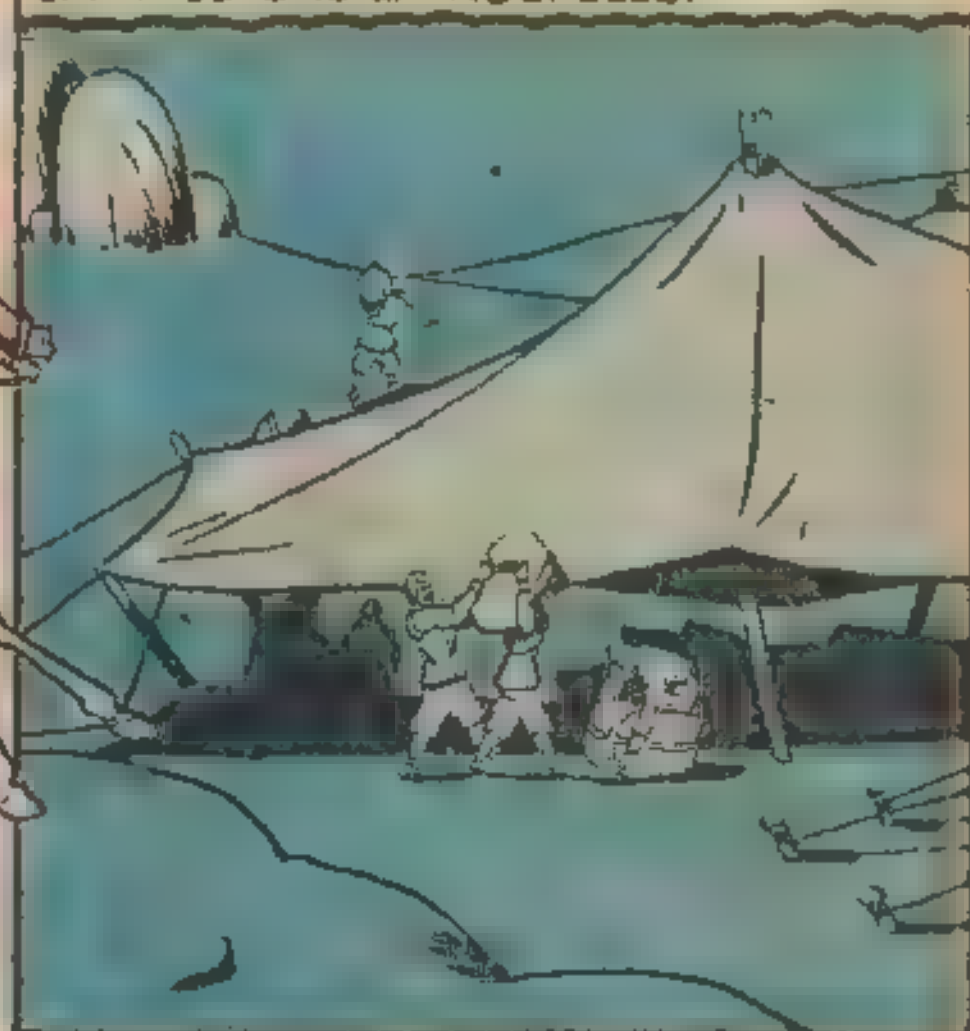
THE MUSKETEERS PASS IN REVIEW OF THEIR KING



DARTAGNAN DOES NOT OBSERVE MADAME WHO, STANDING ON THE SIDE LINES, POINTS HIM OUT TO TWO EVIL-LOOKING MEN.

THE TWO MEN MOUNT HORSES AND FOLLOW THE SOLDIERS.

THAT EVENING, THE SOLDIERS ESTABLISH CAMP BEFORE LA ROCHELLE.



DARTAGNAN, THINKING OF MADAME BONACEUX, WALKS OFF ALONE ALONG A LITTLE ROAD.

DARTAGNAN'S REVERIES ARE CUT SHORT BY THE GLITTER OF A MUSKET BARREL CONCEALED BEHIND A HEDGE.

DIRECTING HIS COURSE AWAY FROM THAT HEDGE HE SEES THE EXTREMITY OF ANOTHER MUSKET ON THE OTHER SIDE.



CLASSICS Illustrated

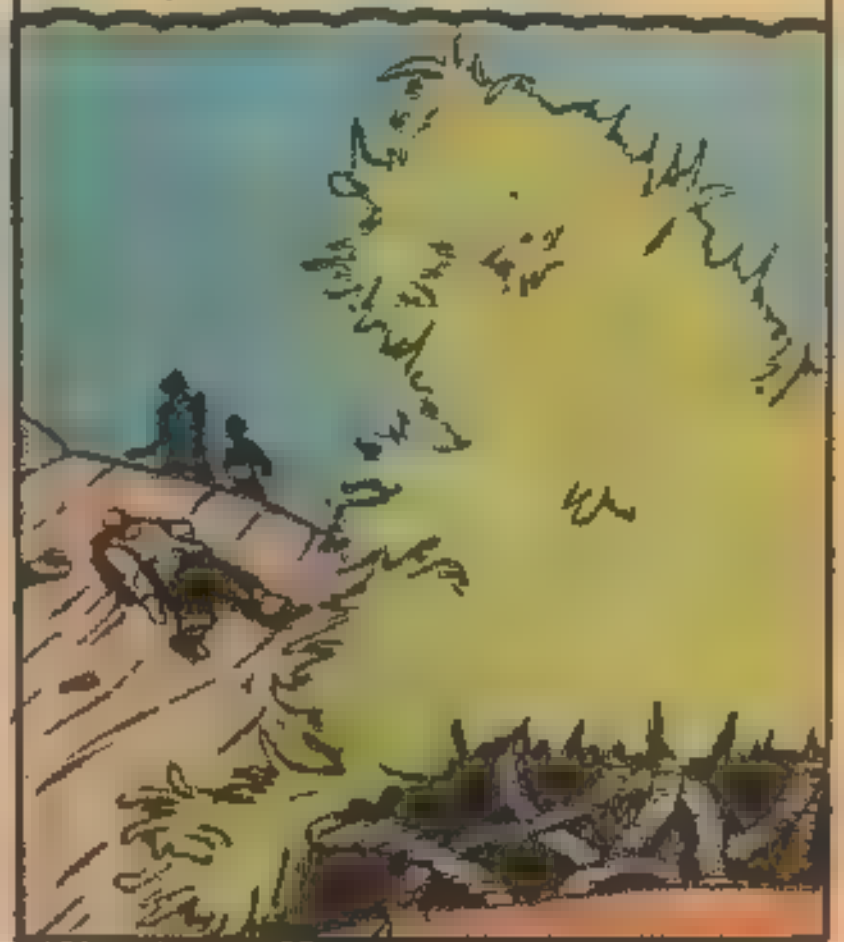
TWO BALLS WHISTLE BY, KNOCKING OFF HIS HAT.



D'ARTAGNAN IS TRAPPED! HE DROPS TO THE GROUND AS THOUGH DEAD!



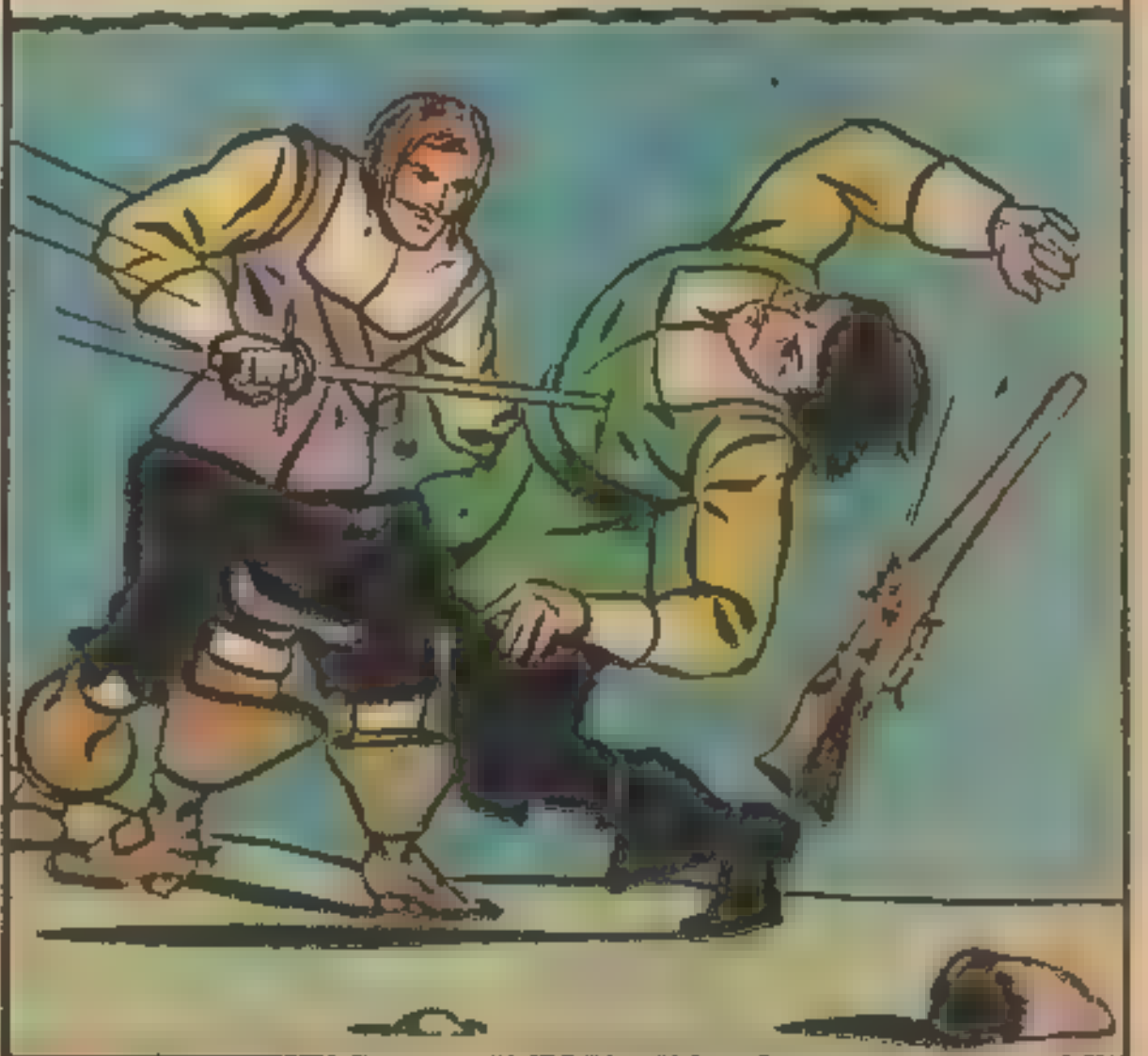
THE ASSASSINS, DECEIVED BY THE TRICK, NEGLECT TO RELOAD THEIR GUNS, AND DRAW CLOSE.



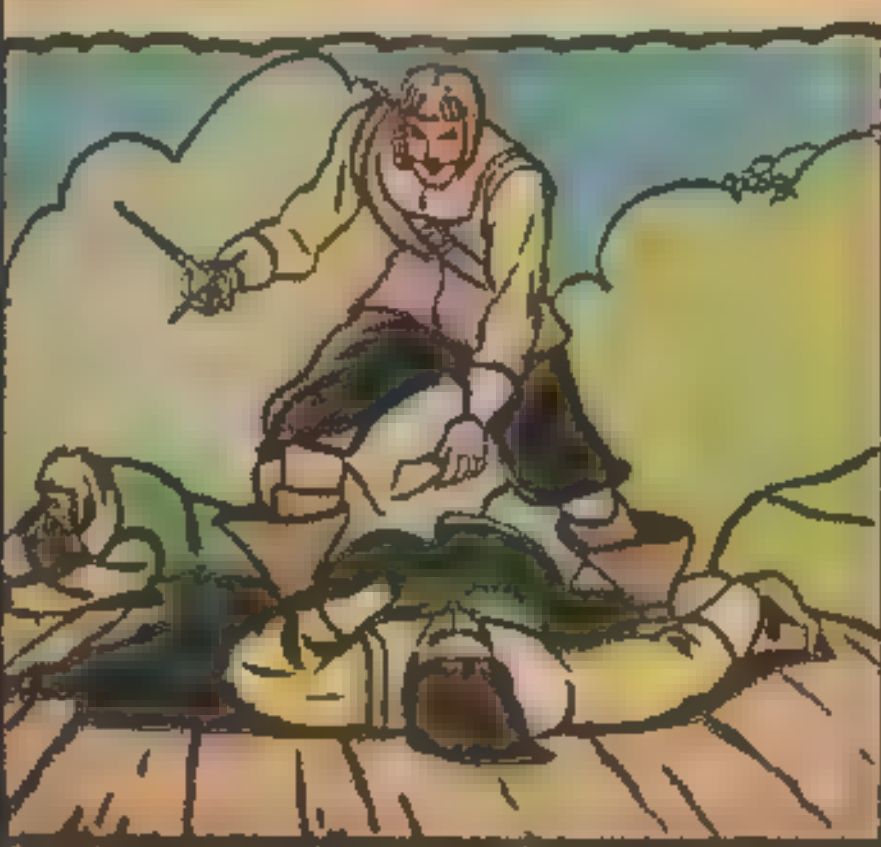
D'ARTAGNAN SPRINGS UP AND KILLS THE NEARER MAN WITH HIS SWORD!



THE OTHER TAKES HIS GUN BY THE BARREL AND AIMS A TERRIBLE BLOW AT D'ARTAGNAN, WHO SPRINGS ASIDE AND THEN RUNS HIM THROUGH!



D'ARTAGNAN SEARCHES THE LIFELESS MAN AND FINDS A LETTER.

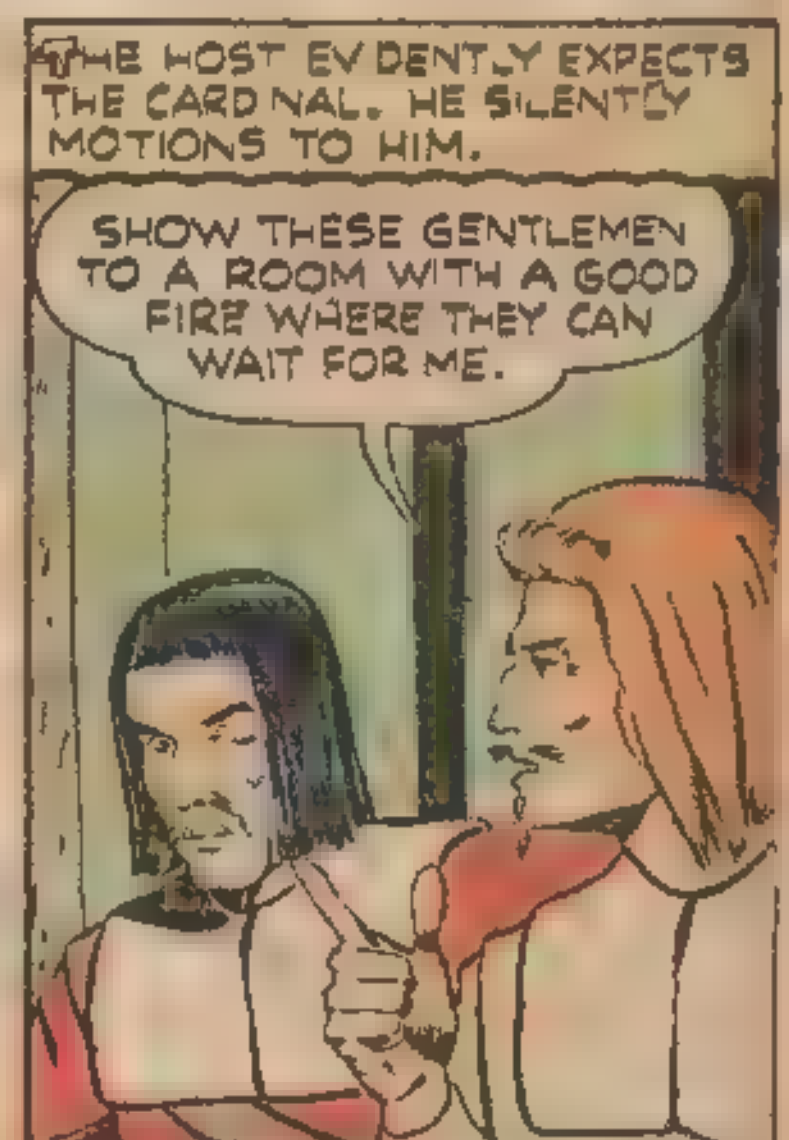
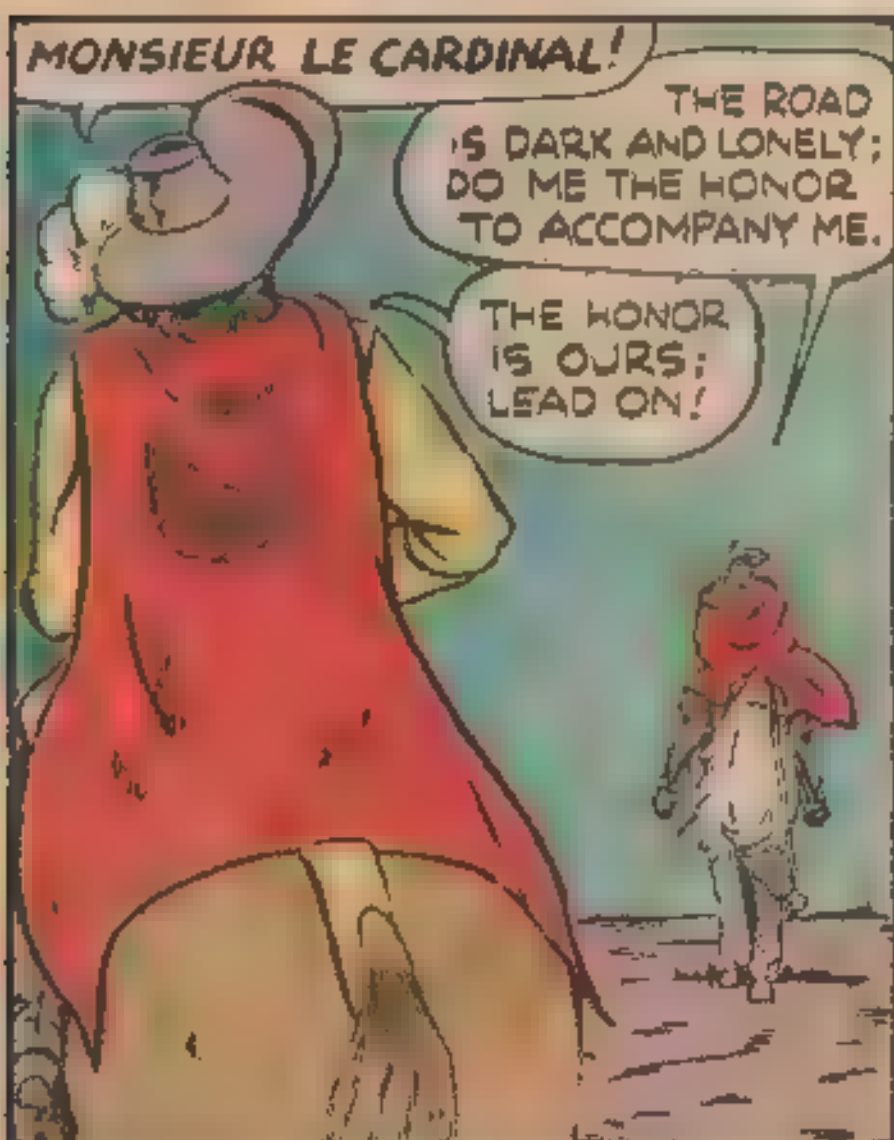
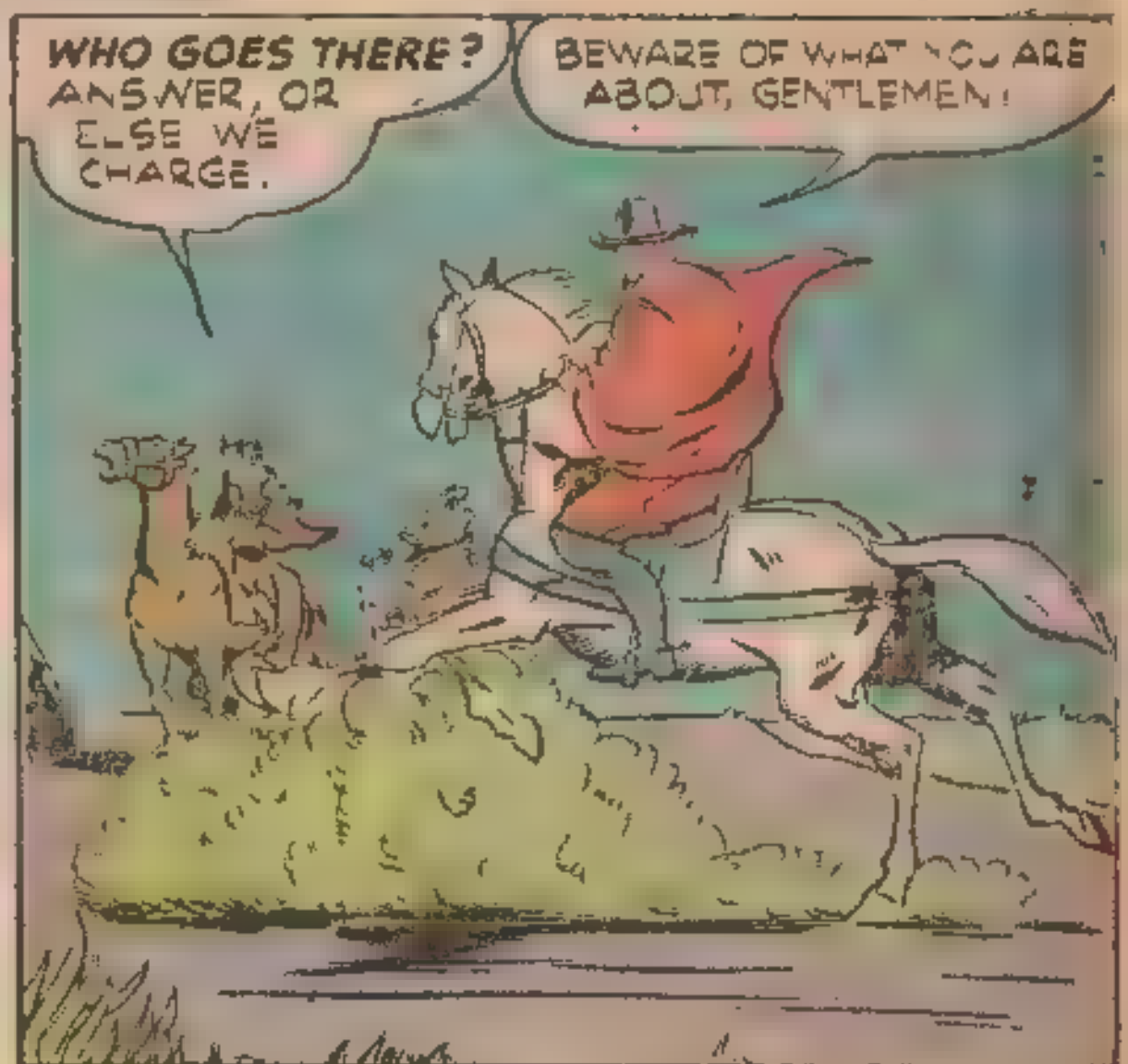
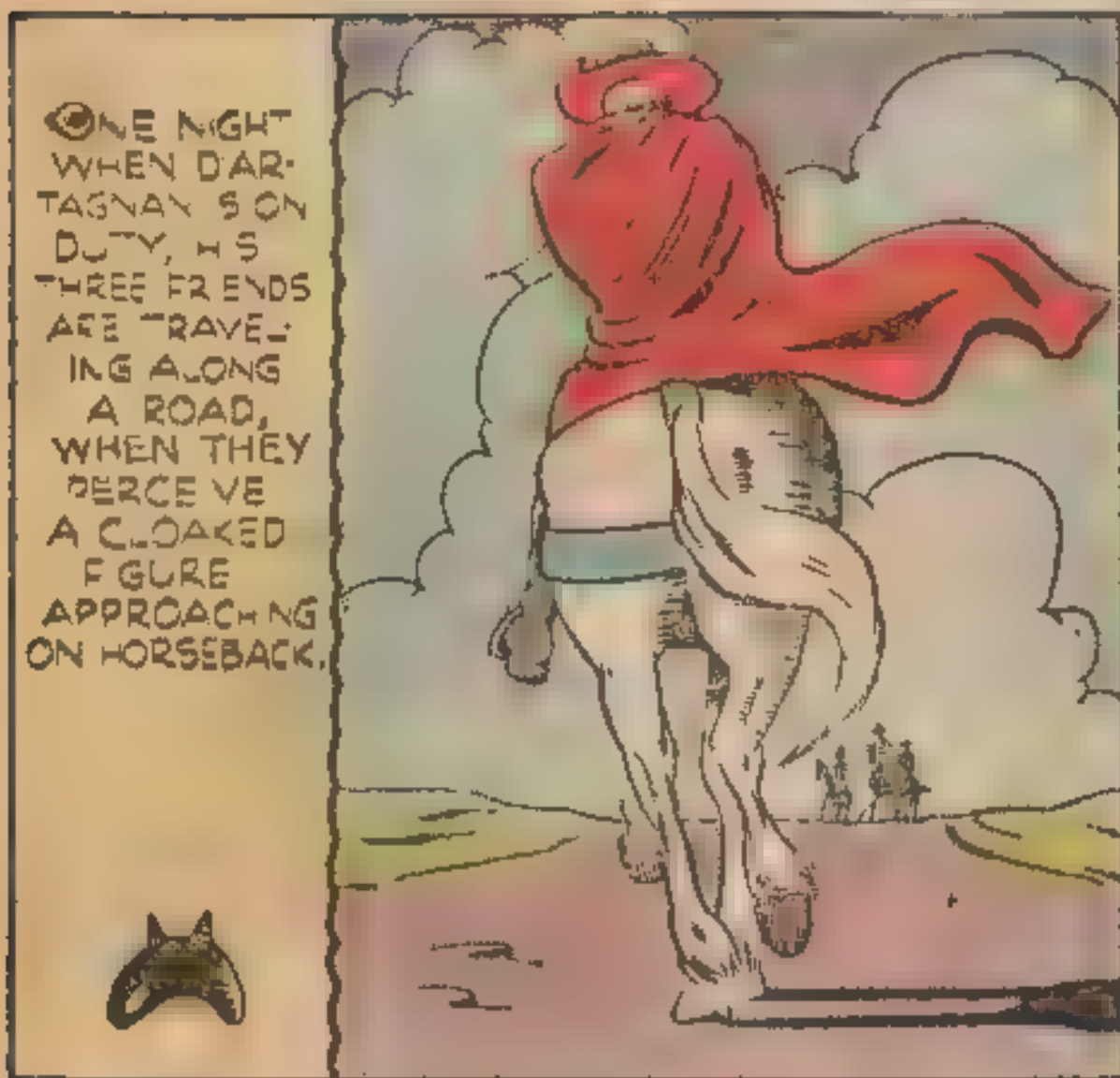


HE READS:

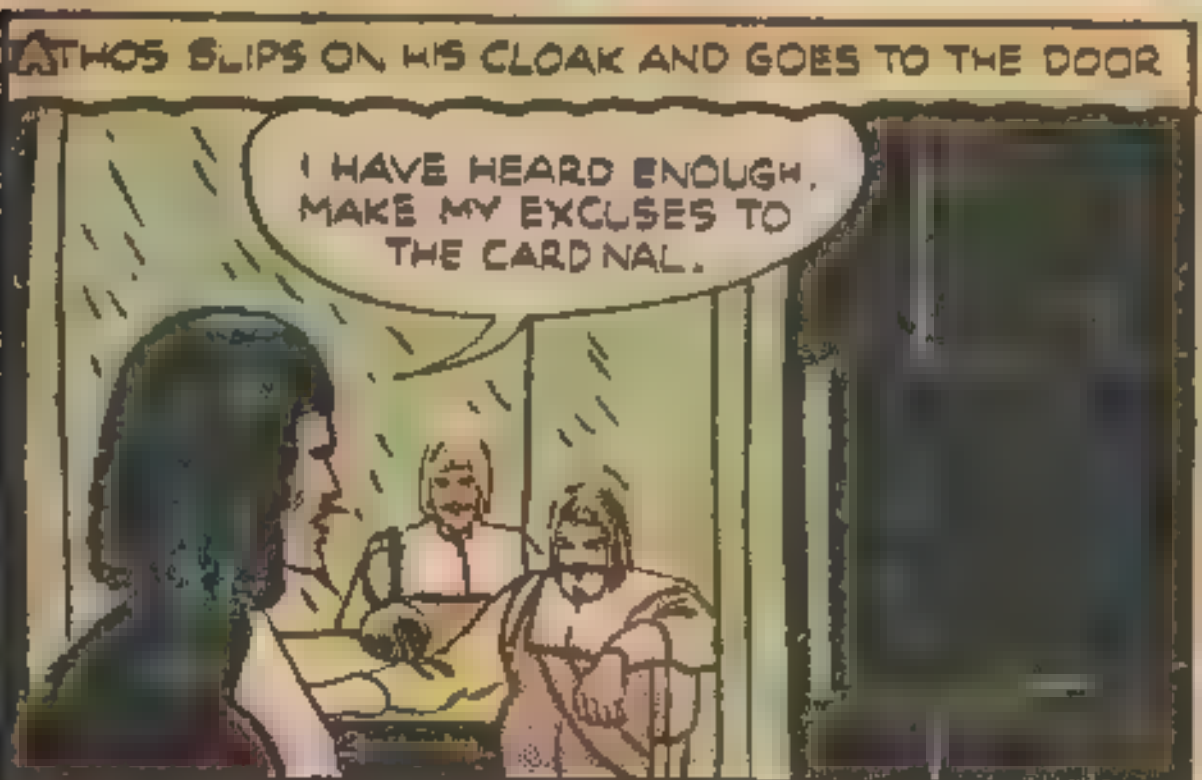
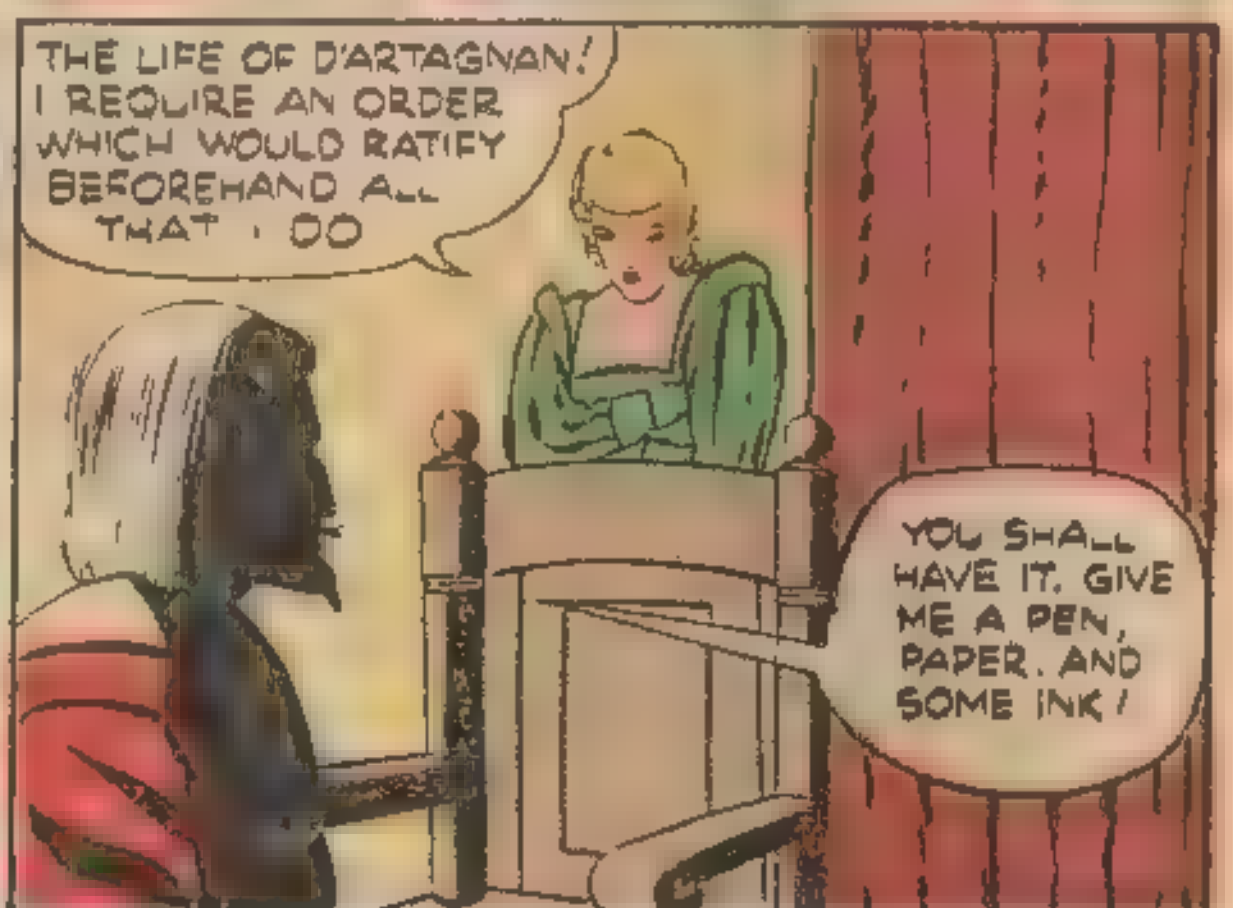
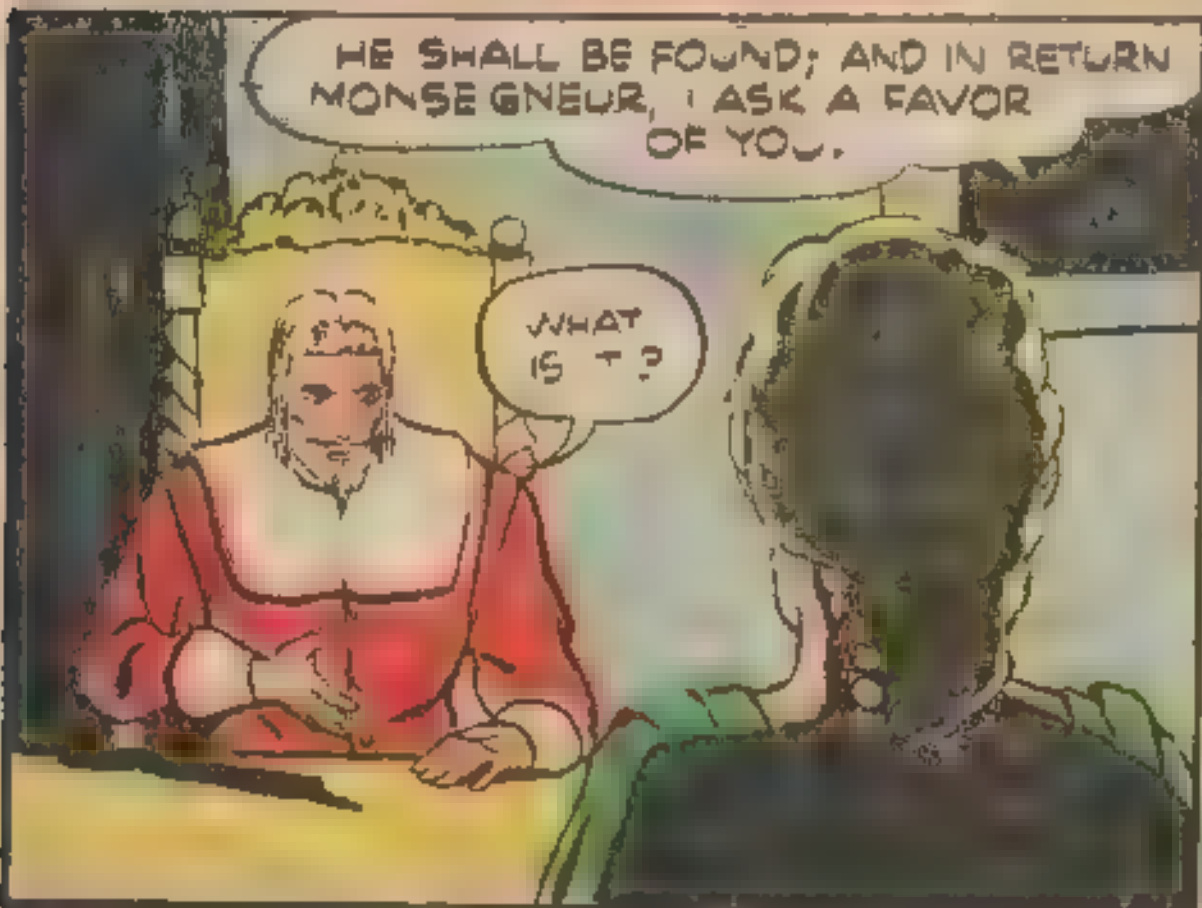
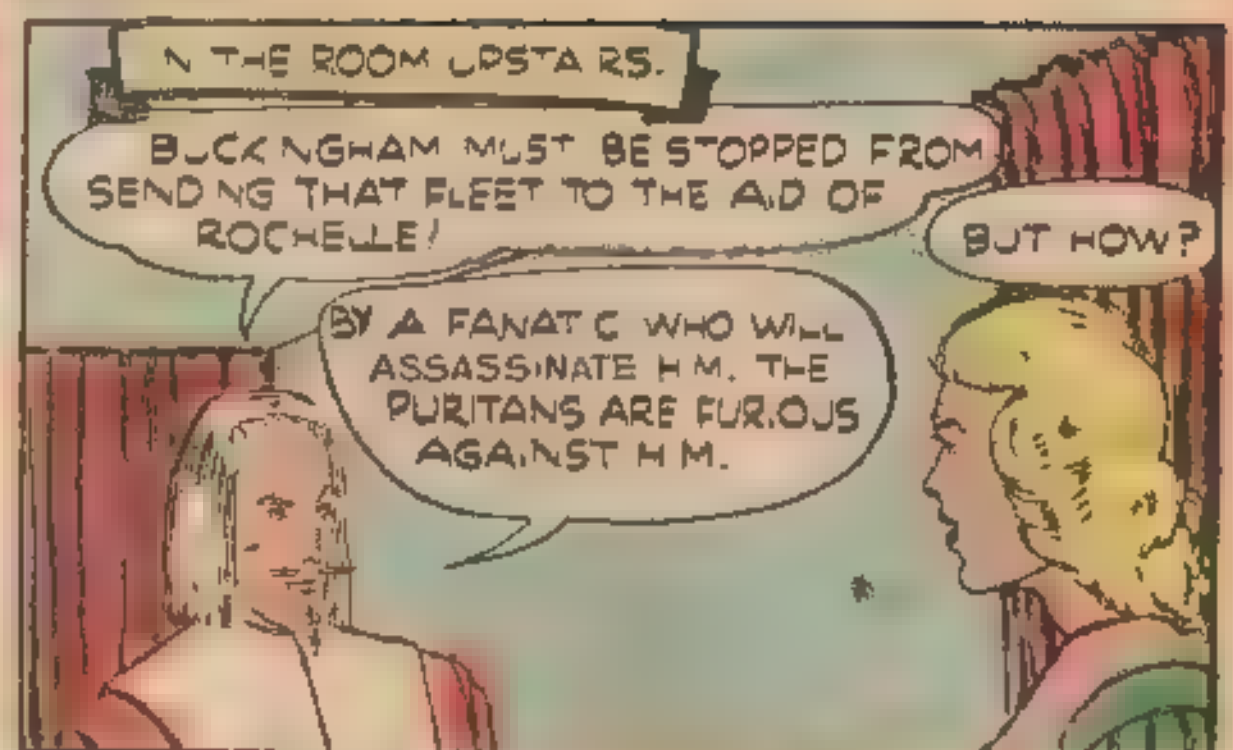
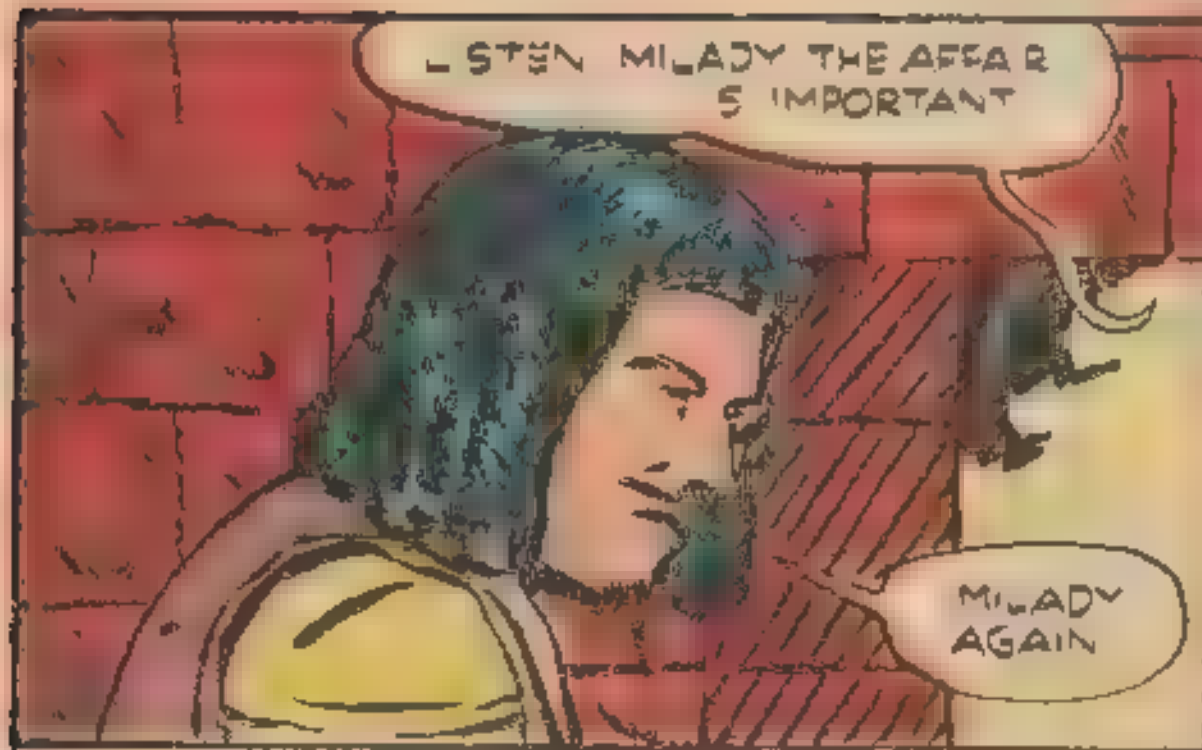
Since you have allowed the Bonacieux woman to escape to the convent of the Carmelites, do not fail to kill the man.

AH! MADAME BONACIEUX IS SAFE AND MILADY HAS FAILED AGAIN!





CLASSICS Illustrated



CLASSICS Illustrated

ATHOS OPENS HIS CLOAK AND LIFTS HIS HAT.

DO YOU KNOW ME, MADAME?



MILADY DRAWS BACK AS THOUGH SHE HAD SEEN A SERPENT.

THE COUNT DE LA FERRE!

YES, M LADY, THE COUNT DE LA FERRE, YOUR HUSBAND!



ATHOS SLOWLY RAISES HIS PISTOL TO MILADY'S HEAD.

MADAME, YOU WILL THIS INSTANT DELIVER TO ME THE PAPER THE CARDINAL SIGNED; OR, UPON MY SOUL, I SHALL BLOW OUT YOUR BRANS.



MILADY REACHES HER HAND TO HER BOSOM AND DRAWS OUT THE PAPER.

TAKE IT, AND BE ACCURSED!



ATHOS READS

It is by my order, and for the good of the state, that the bearer of this has done what he has done.

DEC 3, 1627 Richelieu

—AND NOW THAT I HAVE DRAWN YOUR TEETH, VIPER, BITE IF YOU CAN!

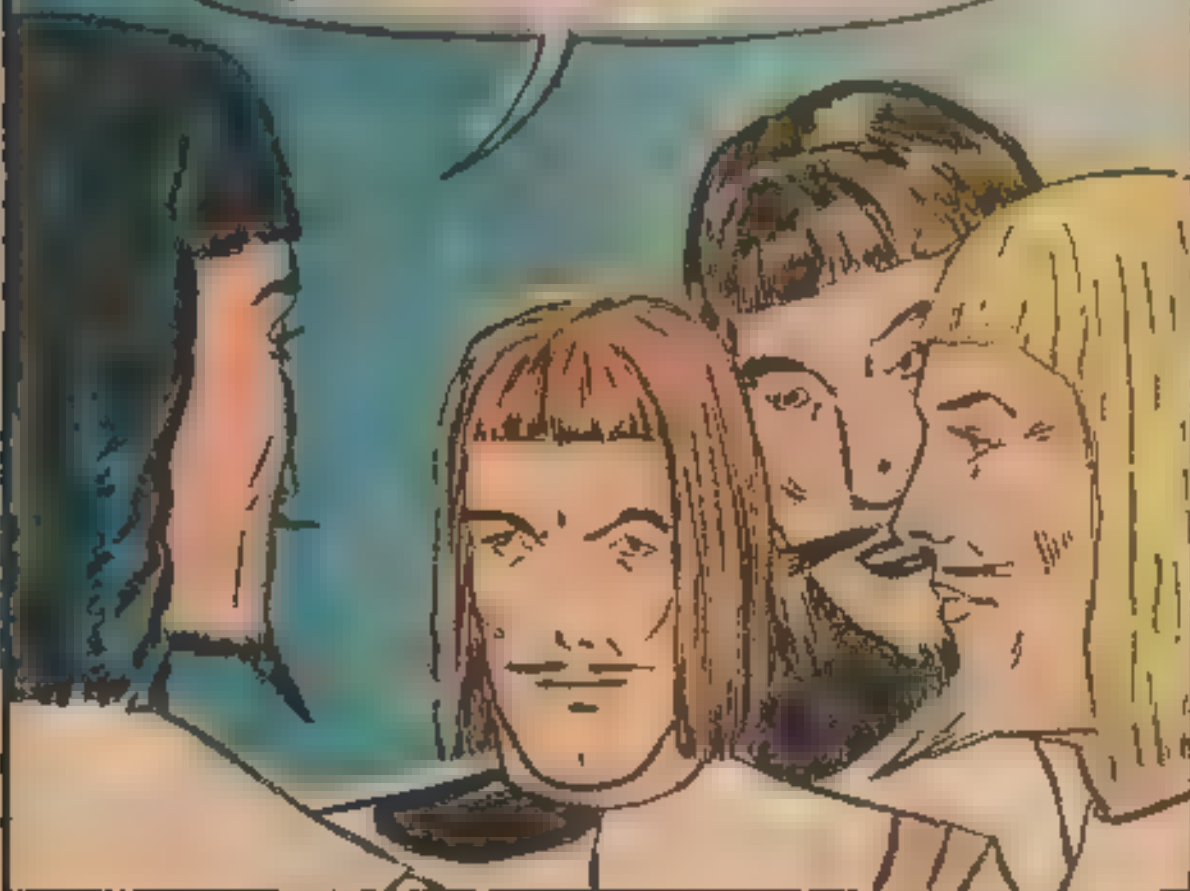


ATHOS LEAVES MILADY AND RIDES FURIOUSLY TO HIS QUARTERS.

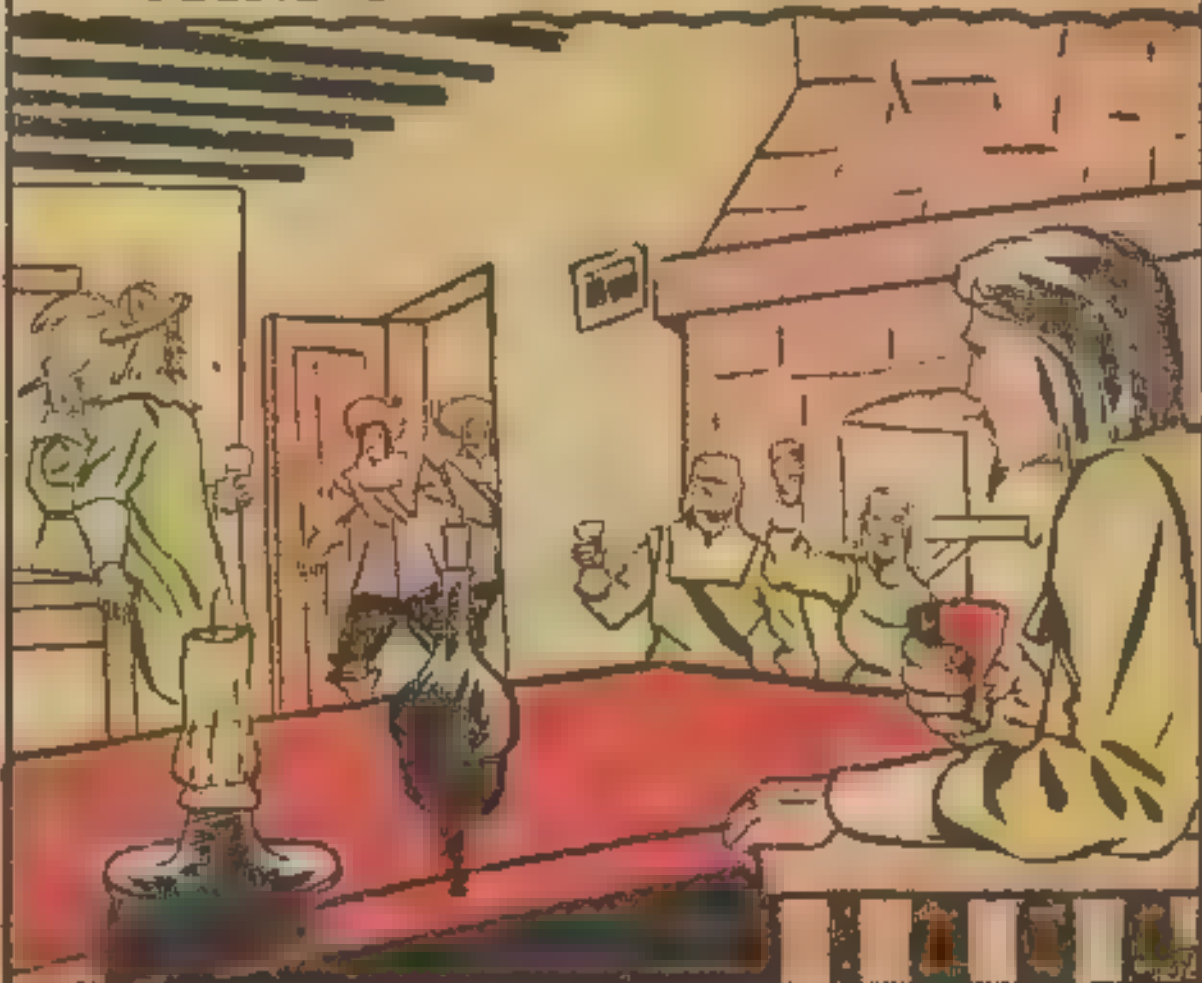


THE NEXT MORNING, ATHOS HOLDS A COUNCIL OF WAR.

GENTLEMEN, WE MUST GO WHERE WE CAN TALK IN PRIVACY.



THEY ALL GO TO A SMALL HOTEL, BUT THE HOUR IS POORLY CHOSEN. THE PLACE IS FULL OF SOLDIERS.



CLASSICS Illustrated

ATHOS ARSES AND ADDRESSES THE ASSEMBLAGE.

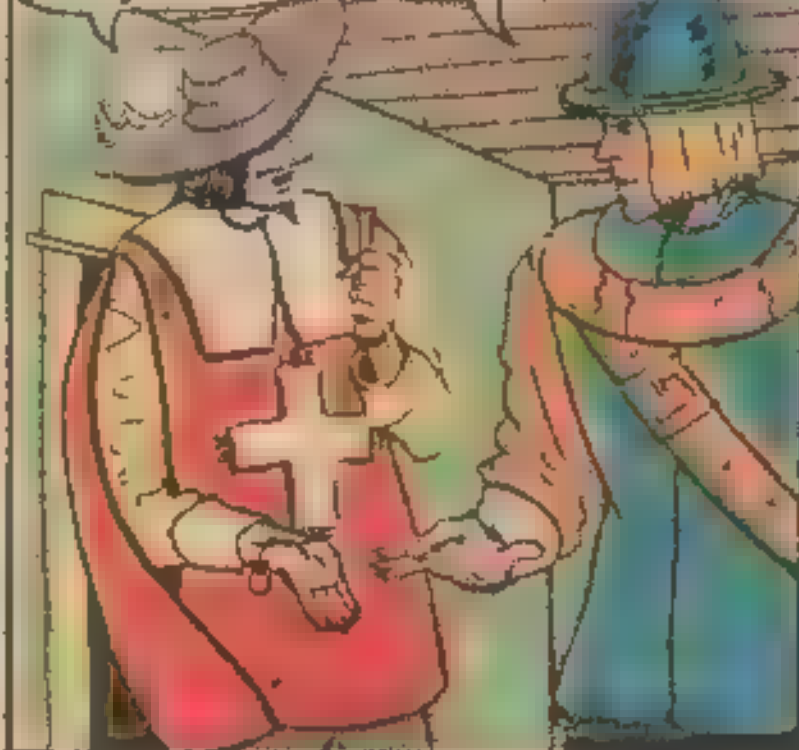
GENTLEMEN, I HAVE A WAGER TO PROPOSE!

AT A WAGER WHAT'S THAT?



WILL BET THAT MY THREE COMPANIONS AND I WILL BREAKFAST IN YONDER BASTION WHICH IS BESIEGED BY THE ROCHELLAIS AND REMAIN THERE AN HOUR.

CAPTAIN, NOW LET US FIX THE STAKE



WHY, WHEN WE RETURN, A DINNER FOR FOUR - WILL THAT DO?

PERFECTLY: WE ACCEPT.



THE FOUR COMPANIONS, FOLLOWED BY GRIMALD CARRYING THE BREAKFAST, SET OFF FOR THE BASTION.

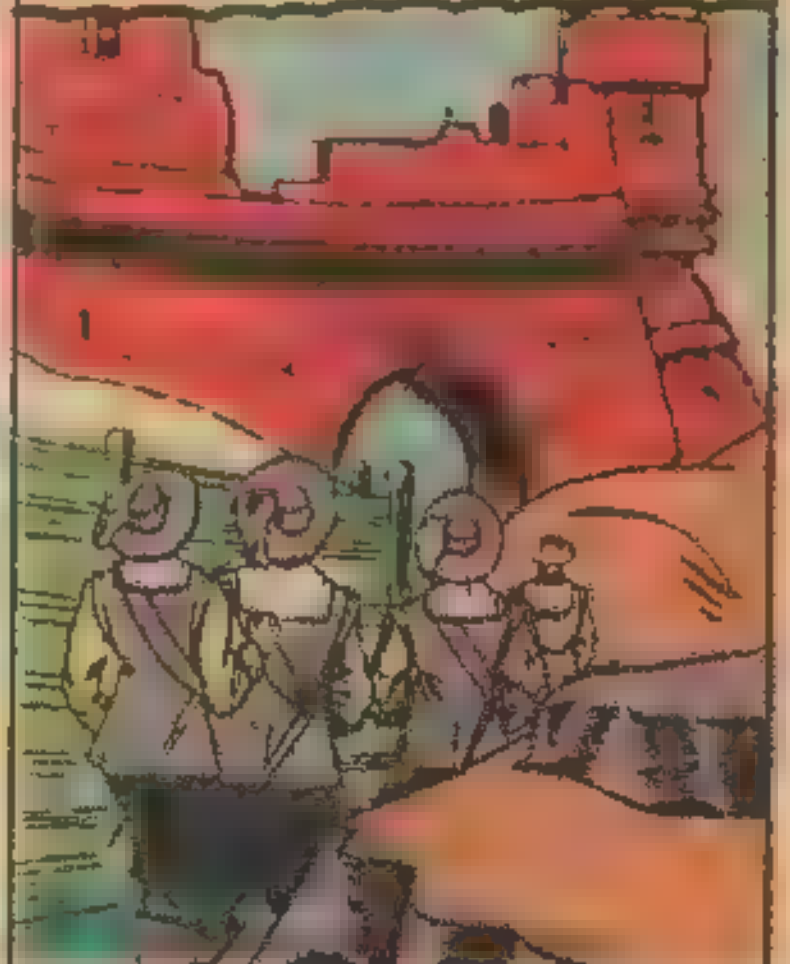


AND NOW MY DEAR ATHOS DO ME THE KINDNESS TO TELL ME WHY WE ARE DOING ALL THIS?

BECAUSE WE HAVE SOME VERY IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO DISCUSS WHICH THE CARDINAL MUST NOT KNOW.



THEY ARRIVE AT THE BASTION, AND PRECEDED BY GRIMALD, ENTER.



THE BASTION IS OCCUPIED BY A DOZEN DEAD BODIES, FRENCH AND ROCHELLAIS.

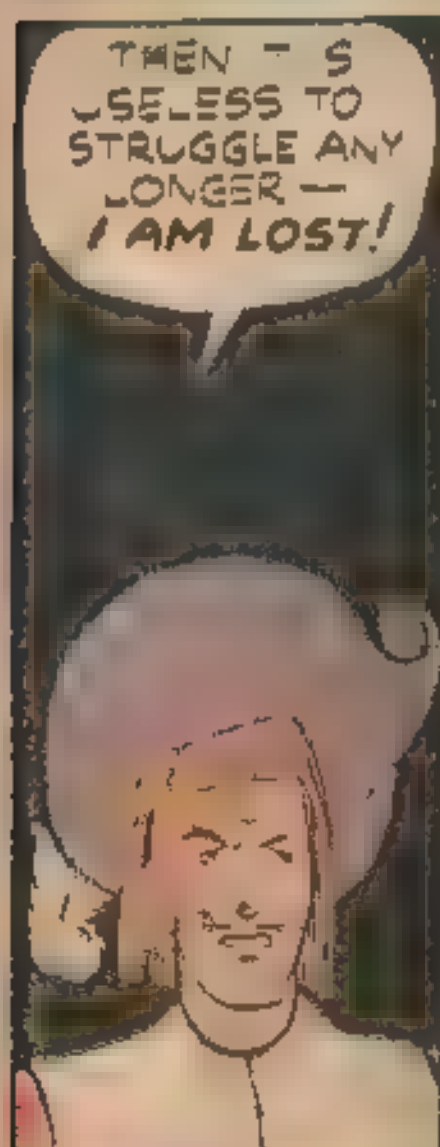


WHILE GRIMALD IS LAYING OUT THE BREAKFAST, LET US COLLECT THE CARTRIDGES AND RELOAD THESE GUNS!

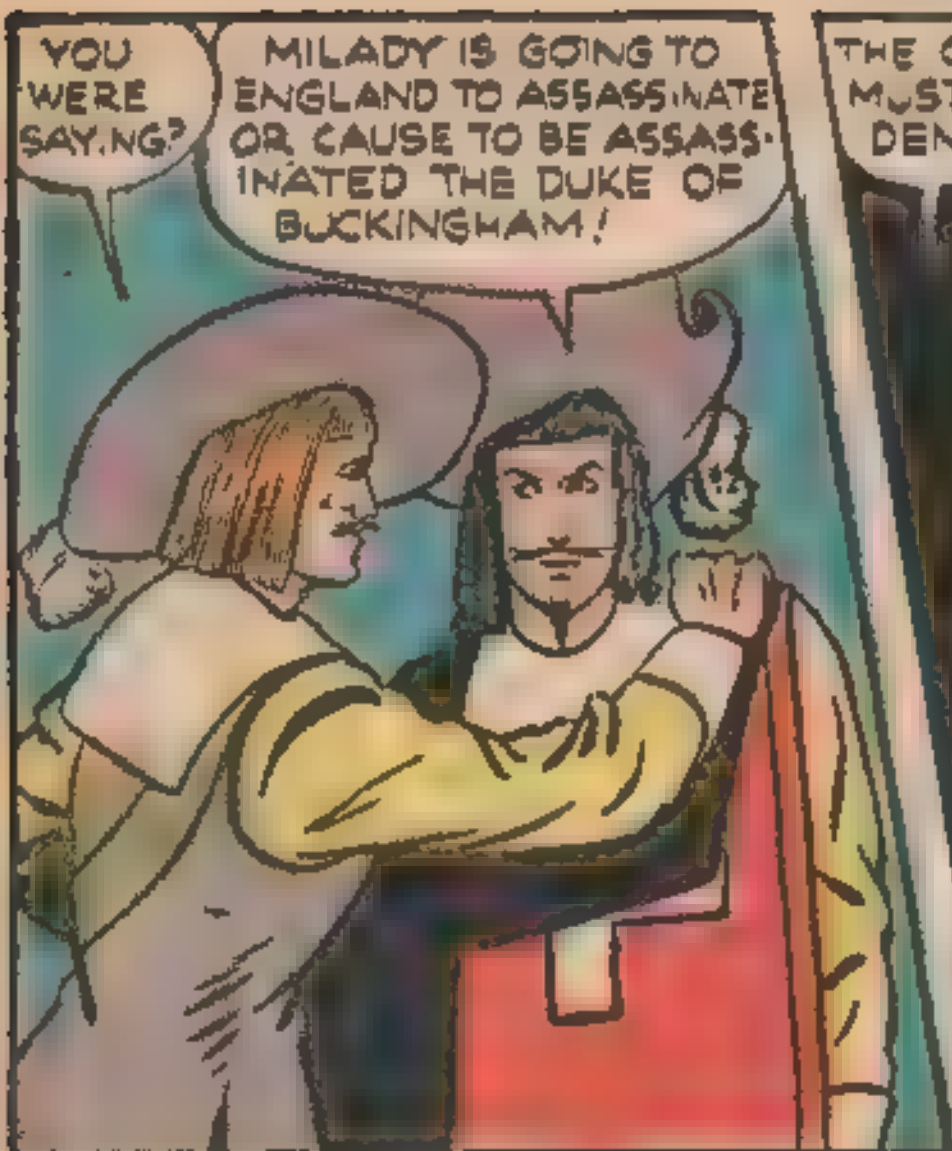
BUT THE SECRET! THE SECRET!



CLASSICS Illustrated



CLASSICS Illustrated



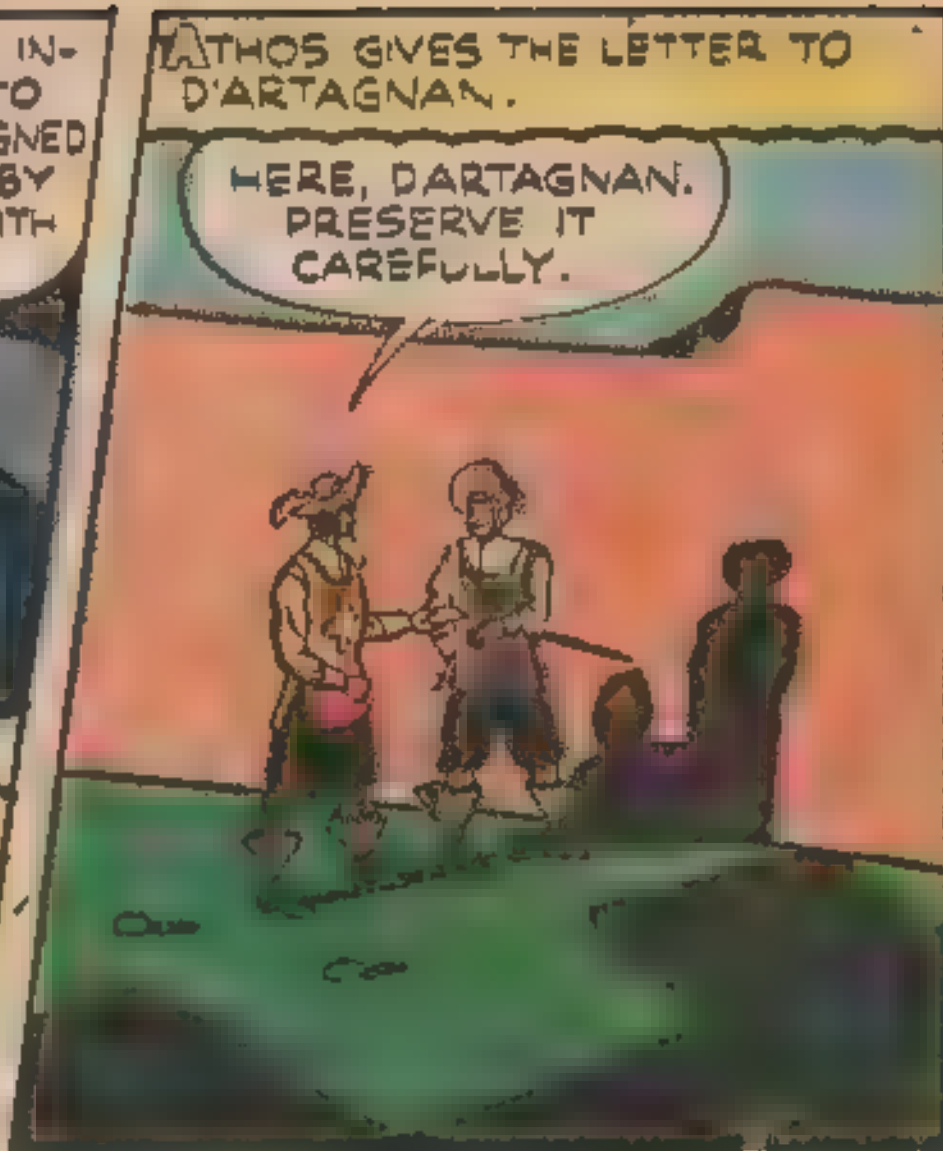
YOU WERE SAYING?

MILADY IS GOING TO ENGLAND TO ASSASSINATE OR CAUSE TO BE ASSASSINATED THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM!



THE CREATURE MUST BE A DEMON!

HOWEVER, I INDUCED HER TO PART WITH A SIGNED CARTE-BLANCHE BY WHICH SHE COULD WITH IMPUNITY GET RID OF YOU!



ATHOS GIVES THE LETTER TO D'ARTAGNAN.

HERE, DARTAGNAN. PRESERVE IT CAREFULLY.



TO ARMS!

AT THIS CRY, THE YOUNG MEN SPRING UP AND TAKE THEIR MUSKETS.



A TROOP OF TWENTY SOLDIERS IS SEEN ADVANCING ON THEM.

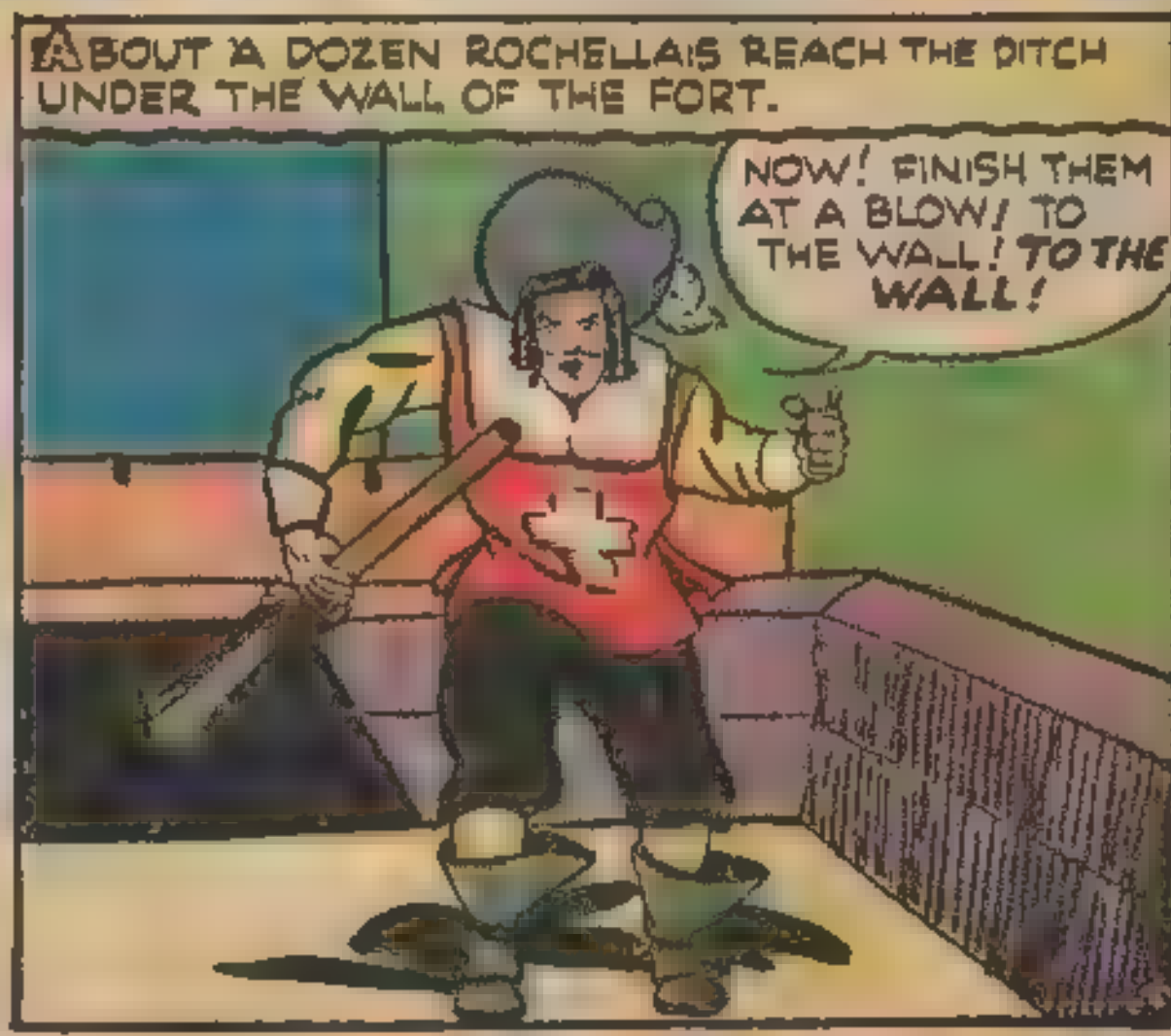
SHALL WE RETURN TO CAMP? I DON'T THINK THE SIDES ARE EQUAL!



IMPOSSIBLE! WE HAVE NOT FINISHED BREAKFAST YET—WE STILL HAVE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DISCUSS; AND IT YET WANTS TEN MINUTES BEFORE THE HOUR WILL BE ELAPSED!



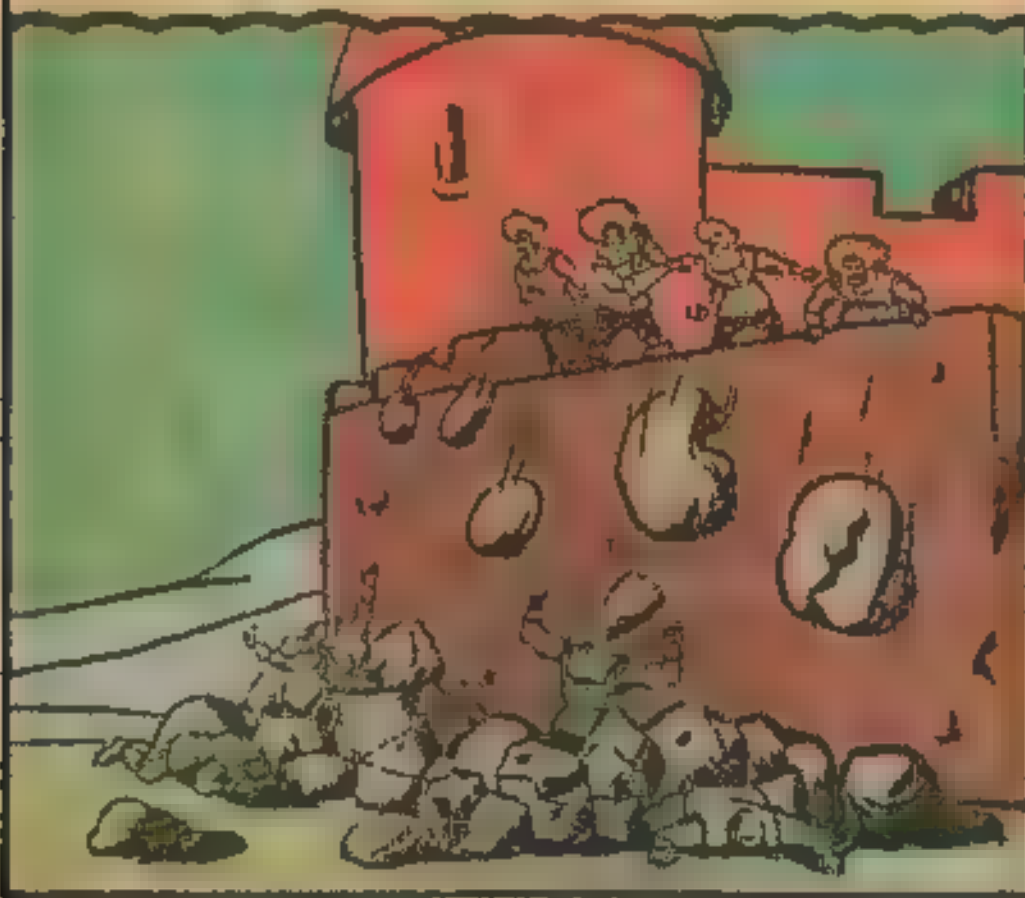
THE MUSKETEERS FIRE ON THE SOLDIERS. GRIMAUD RELOADS THE EMPTY GUNS. HALF OF THE SOLDIERS ARE KILLED.



ABOUT A DOZEN ROCHELLAIS REACH THE DITCH UNDER THE WALL OF THE FORT.

NOW! FINISH THEM AT A BLOW! TO THE WALL! TO THE WALL!

THE FOUR MUSKETEERS, AIDED BY GRIMAUD, PUSH THE WALL WITH THEIR GUN BARRELS. IT SWAYS, THEN TOPPLES INTO THE DITCH.



MA TOI! WE HAVE DESTROYED THEM 'ALL!

IT APPEARS SO. NOW LET US RESUME OUR CONVERSATION!



THEY SIT DOWN AGAIN TO BREAKFAST.

WE MUST WARN LORD DE WINTER OF M'LADY'S INTENTIONS.



BUT HOW?

I WILL SEND PLANCHET TO LONDON WITH A LETTER!



WHAT IS THAT NOISE?

WHY, THEY ARE SENDING A WHOLE REGIMENT AGAINST US. WE SHALL BE KILLED!



ATHOS POINTS TO THE DEAD SOLDIERS

GRIMAUD, TAKE THESE GENTLEMEN SET THEM UP AGAINST THE WALL AND PUT GUNS IN THEIR HANDS!



QUICKLY! DID YOU TALK OF A REGIMENT, PORTHOS? IT IS AN ARMY!



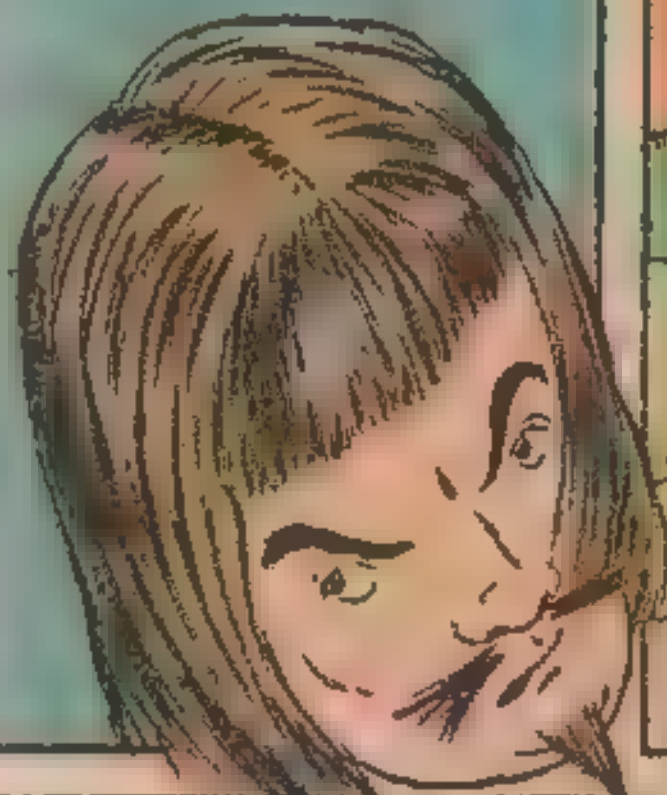
THE BODIES ARE SET AGAINST THE LOOPHOLES, WITH THE GUNS POINTING OUT.

NOW, GENTLEMEN, LET US BE OFF!



A FURIOUS VOLLEY IS HEARD.

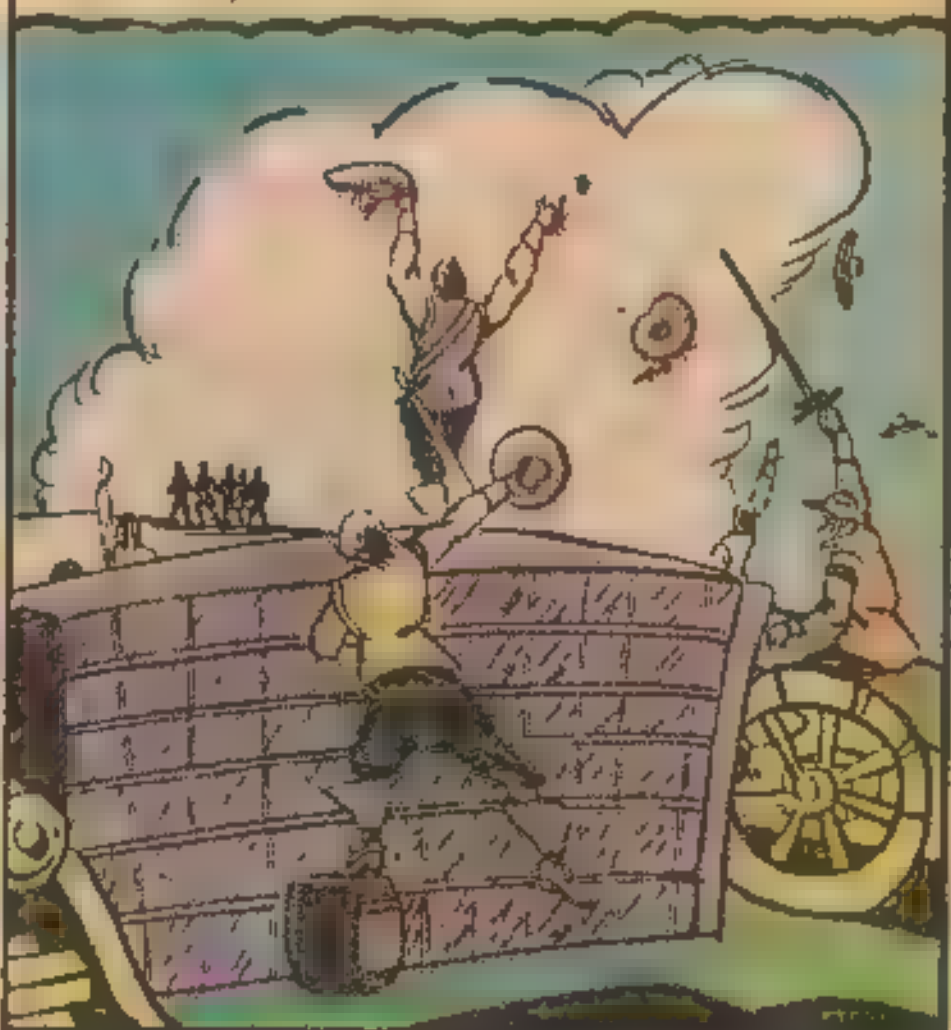
WHAT ARE THEY FIRING AT NOW? I HEAR NO BALLS WHISTLING BY!



THEY ARE FIRING AT GRIMAUD'S DEAD COMPANY AND BY THE TIME THEY FIND OUT THE TRICK, WE SHALL BE SAFELY BACK.



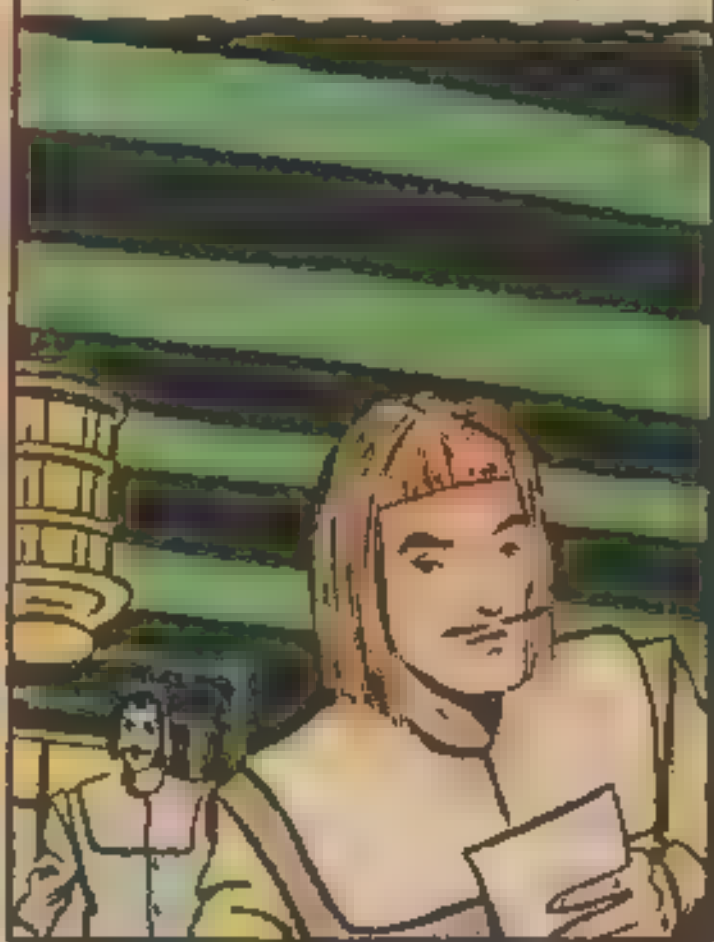
THE FRENCH ON SEEING THEIR COMRADES RETURN, CHEER WILDLY.



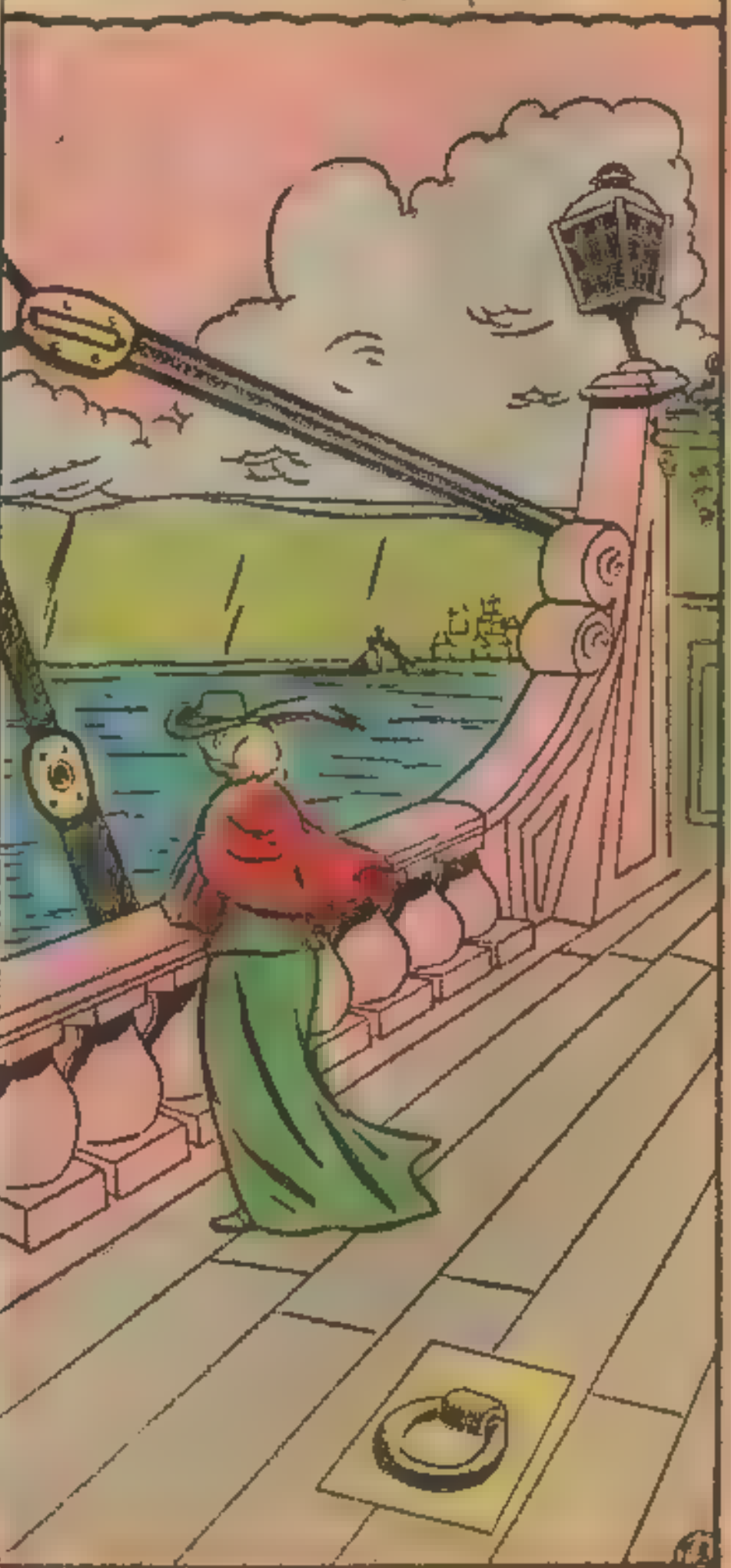
THAT NIGHT, PLANCHET SETS OUT FOR LONDON WITH A LETTER TO DE WINTER.



AFTER SIXTEEN DAYS PLANCHET RETURNS WITH A NOTE FROM DE WINTER. IT READS "THANK YOU. BE EASY."



MEANWHILE MILADY, ABOARD A SLOOP, ARRIVES AT THE ENGLISH PORT OF PORTSMOUTH. A LITTLE CUTTER DRAWS ALONGSIDE.

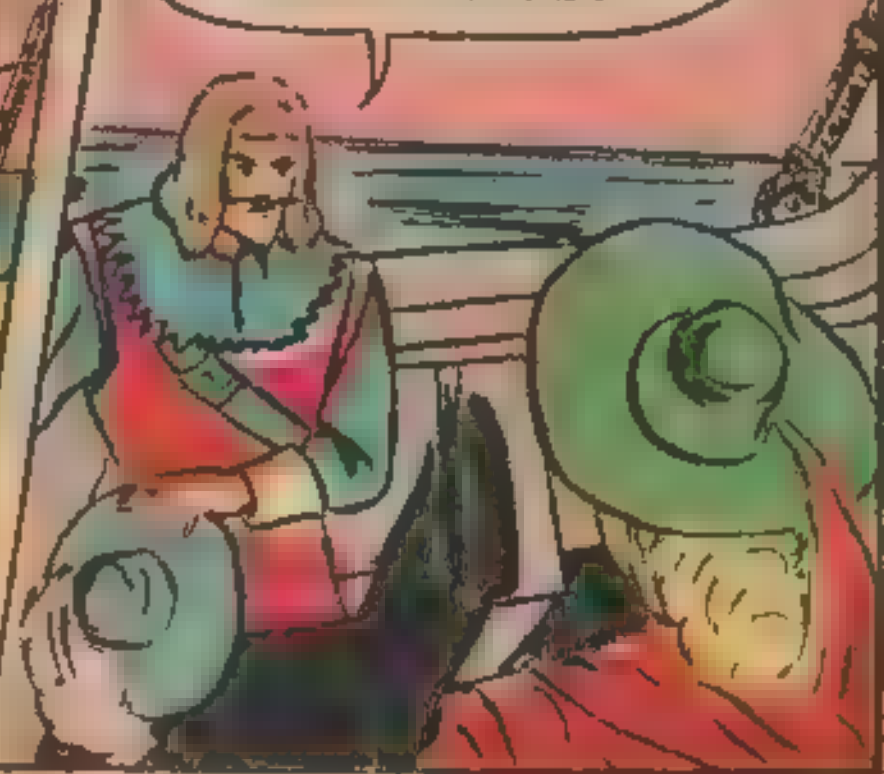


AN OFFICER FROM THE CUTTER BOARDS THE VESSEL AND TALKS TO THE CAPTAIN.



THE OFFICER APPROACHES MILADY.

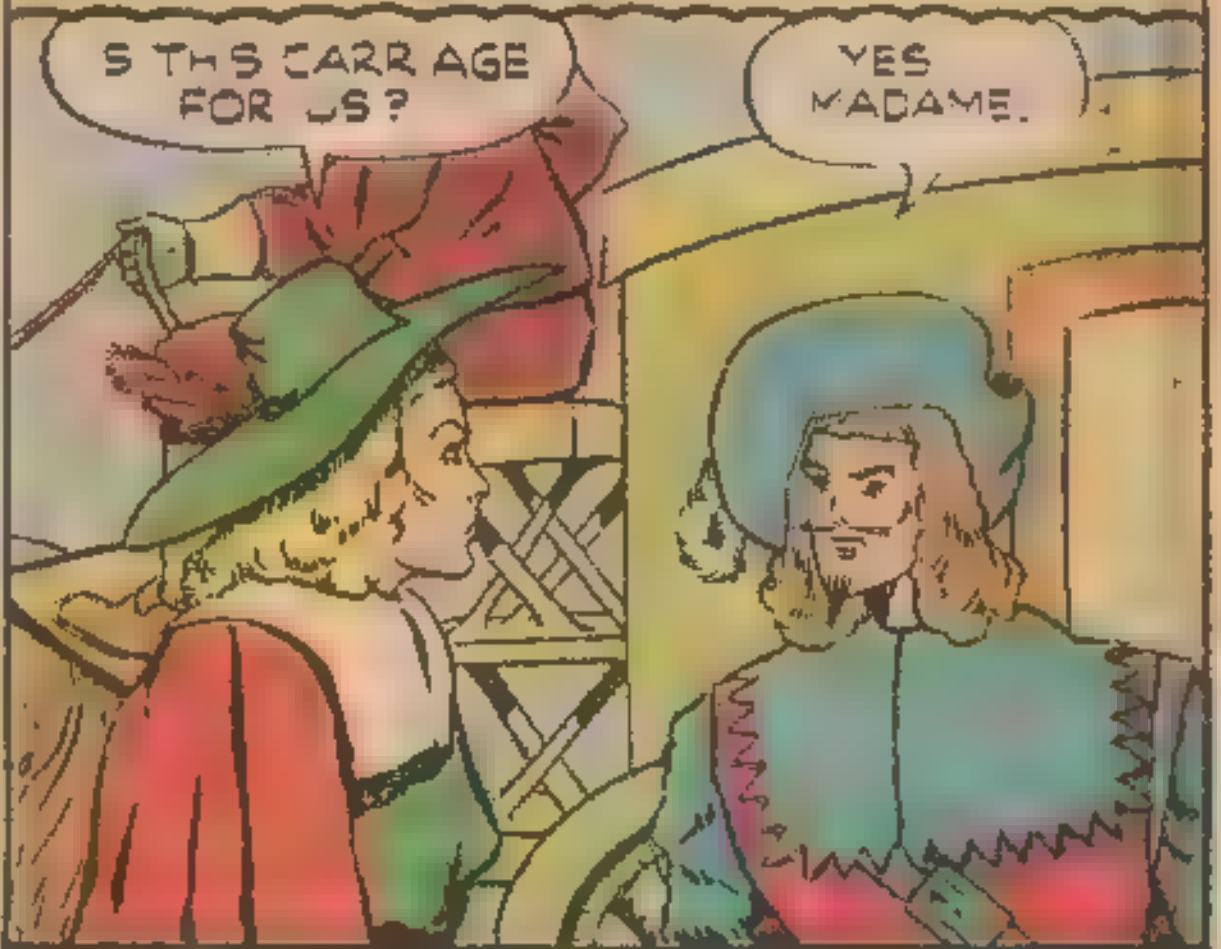
I AM AN OFFICER IN THE ENGLISH NAVY. PLEASE COME WITH ME.



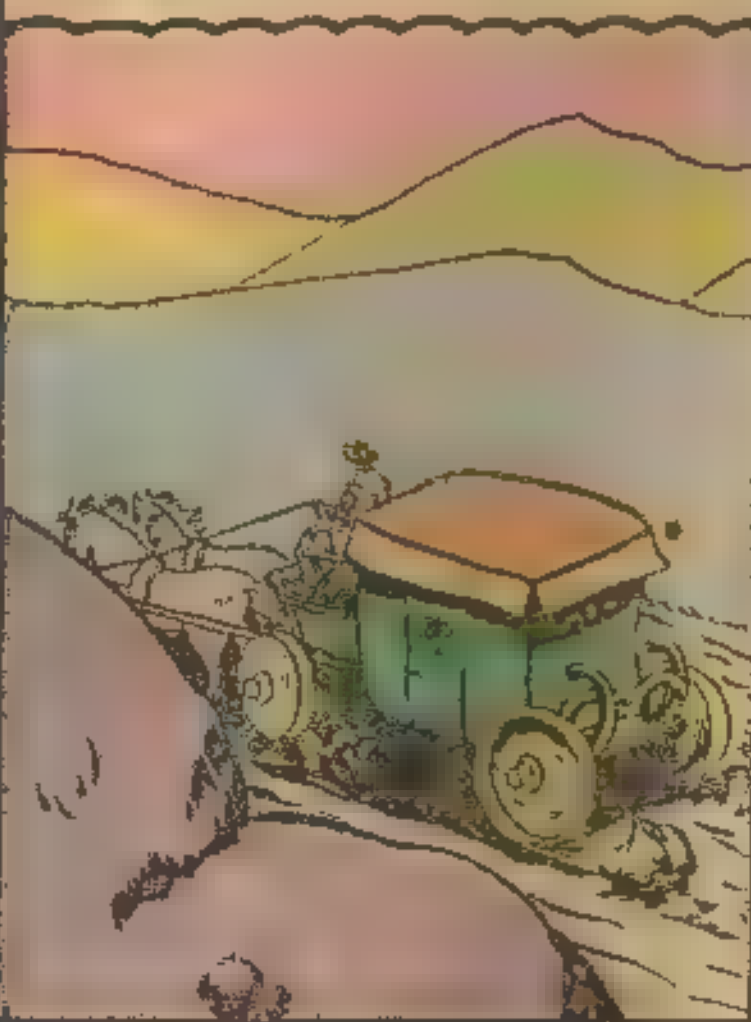
MILADY IS TAKEN ABOARD THE CUTTER AND BROUGHT TO SHORE.



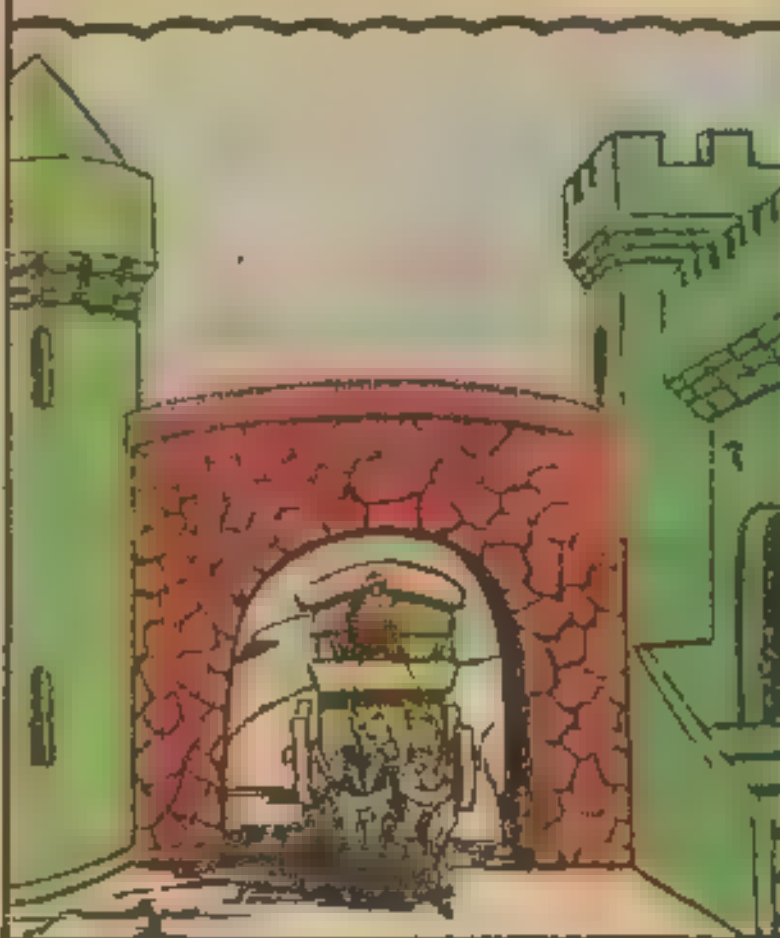
THE OFFICER SPRINGS OUT AND HELPS MILADY ALIGHT. A CARRIAGE IS WAITING.



THEY GET INTO THE CARRIAGE AND ARE DRIVEN AWAY.



AT LENGTH THE CARRIAGE ENTERS THE COURTYARD OF AN OLD CASTLE PERCHED ON A CLIFF BY THE SEA.



THE OFFICER HELPS MILADY FROM THE CARRIAGE.



THE OFFICER LEADS MILADY INTO A CHAMBER WITH DOORS AND WINDOWS BARRED.



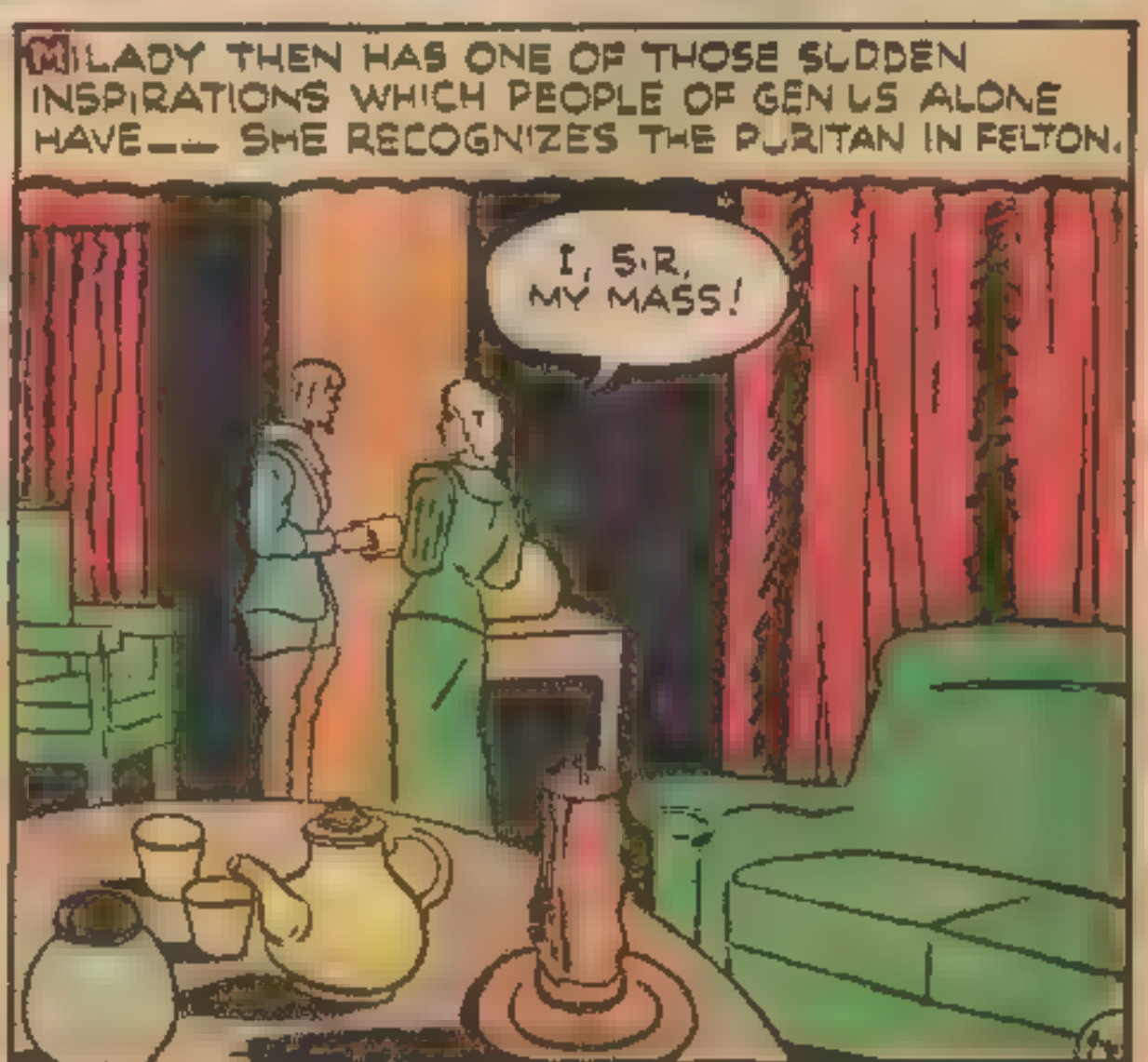
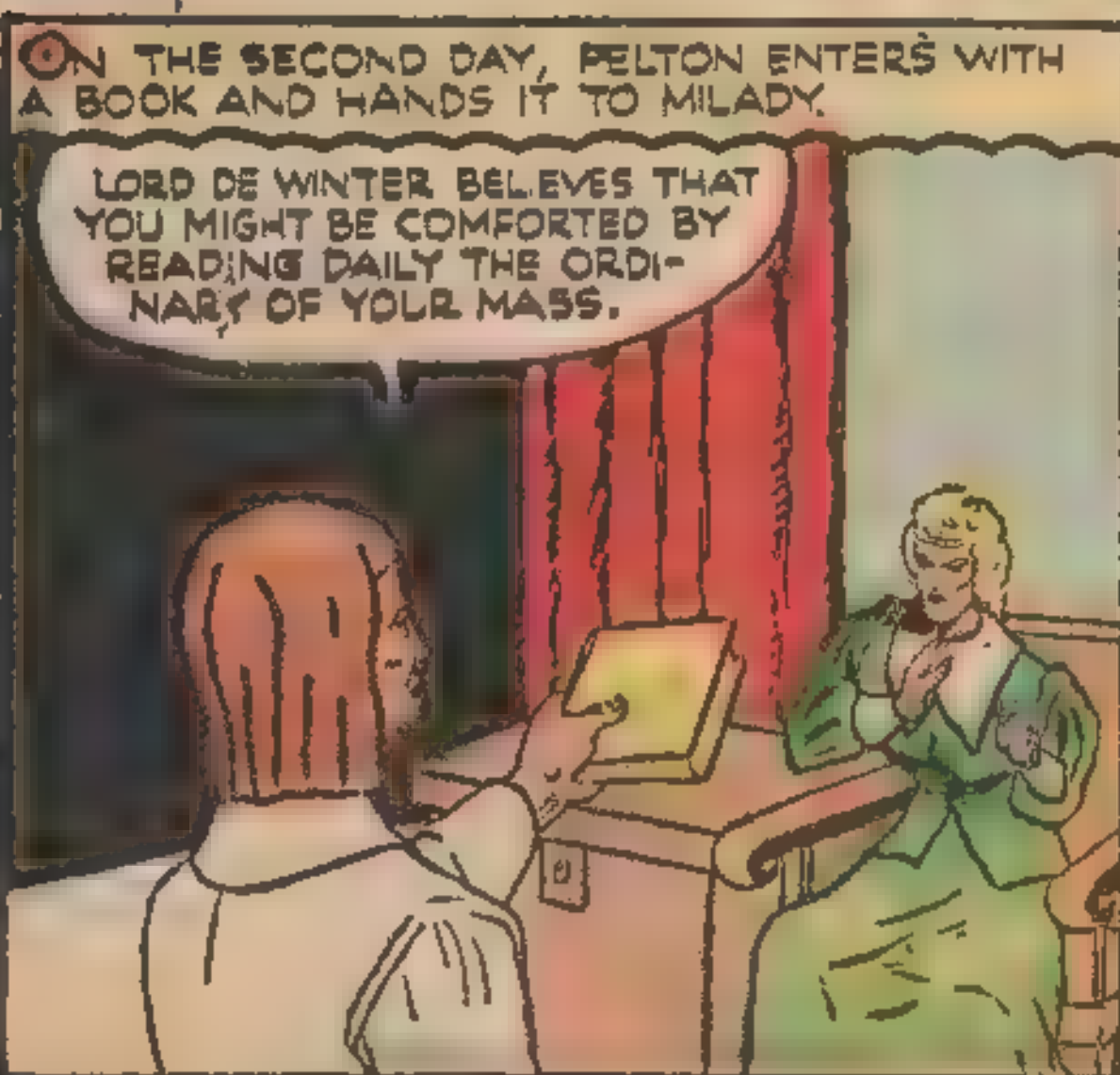
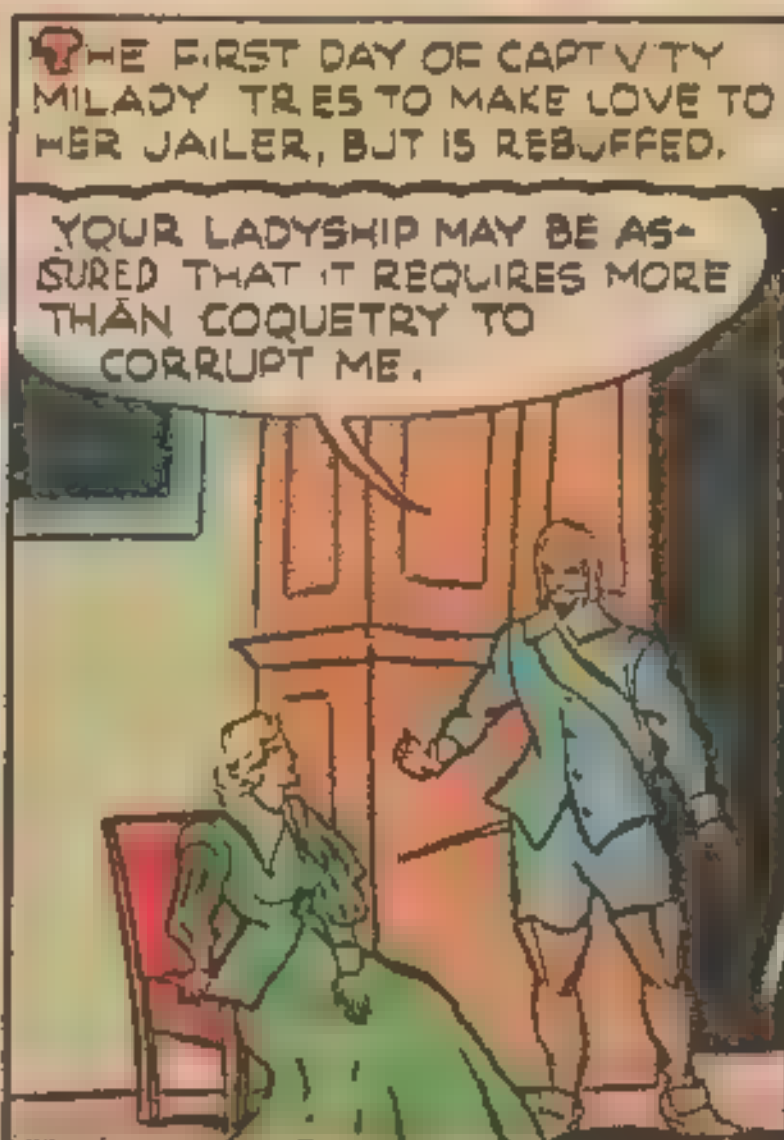
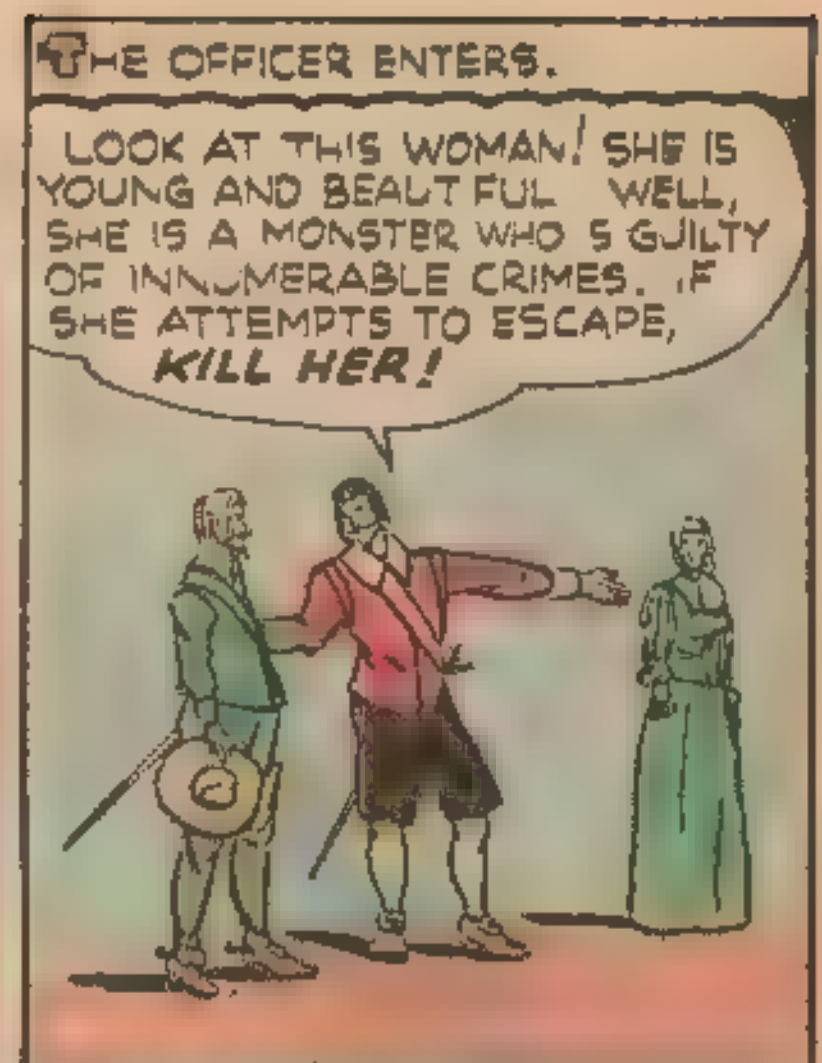
MY DUTY IS DONE. THE REST CONCERNS ANOTHER PERSON. HERE HE IS NOW.



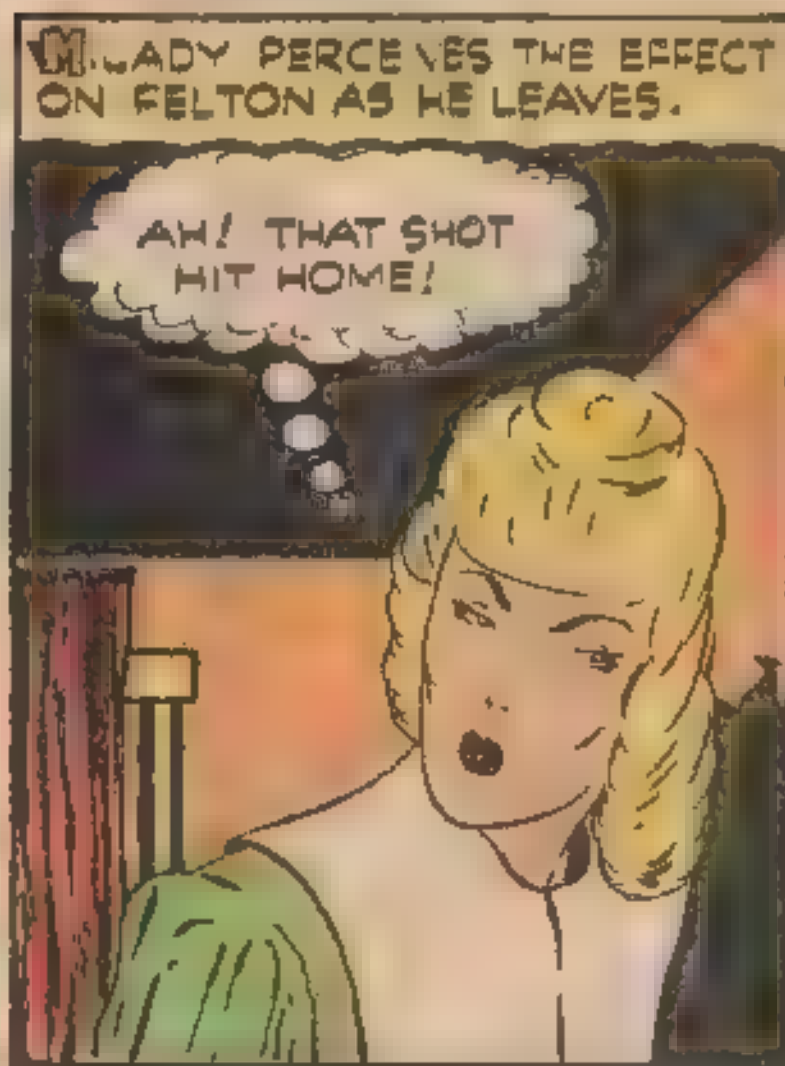
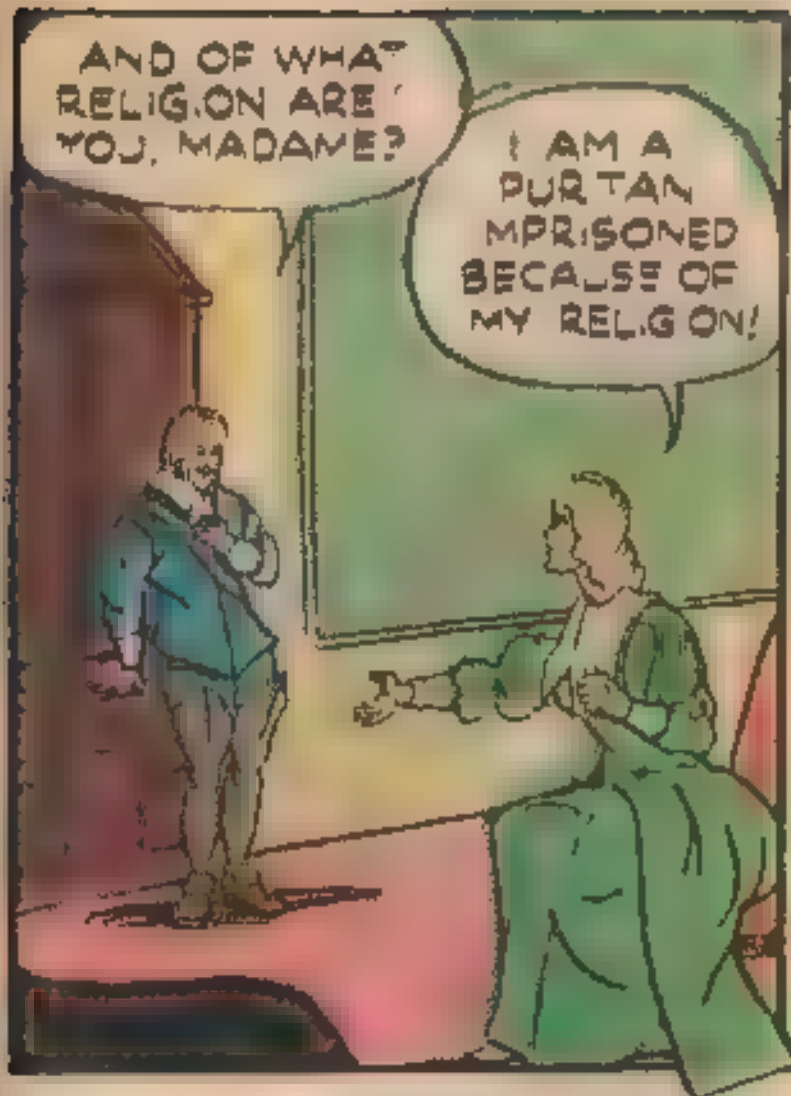
LORD DE WINTER ENTERS



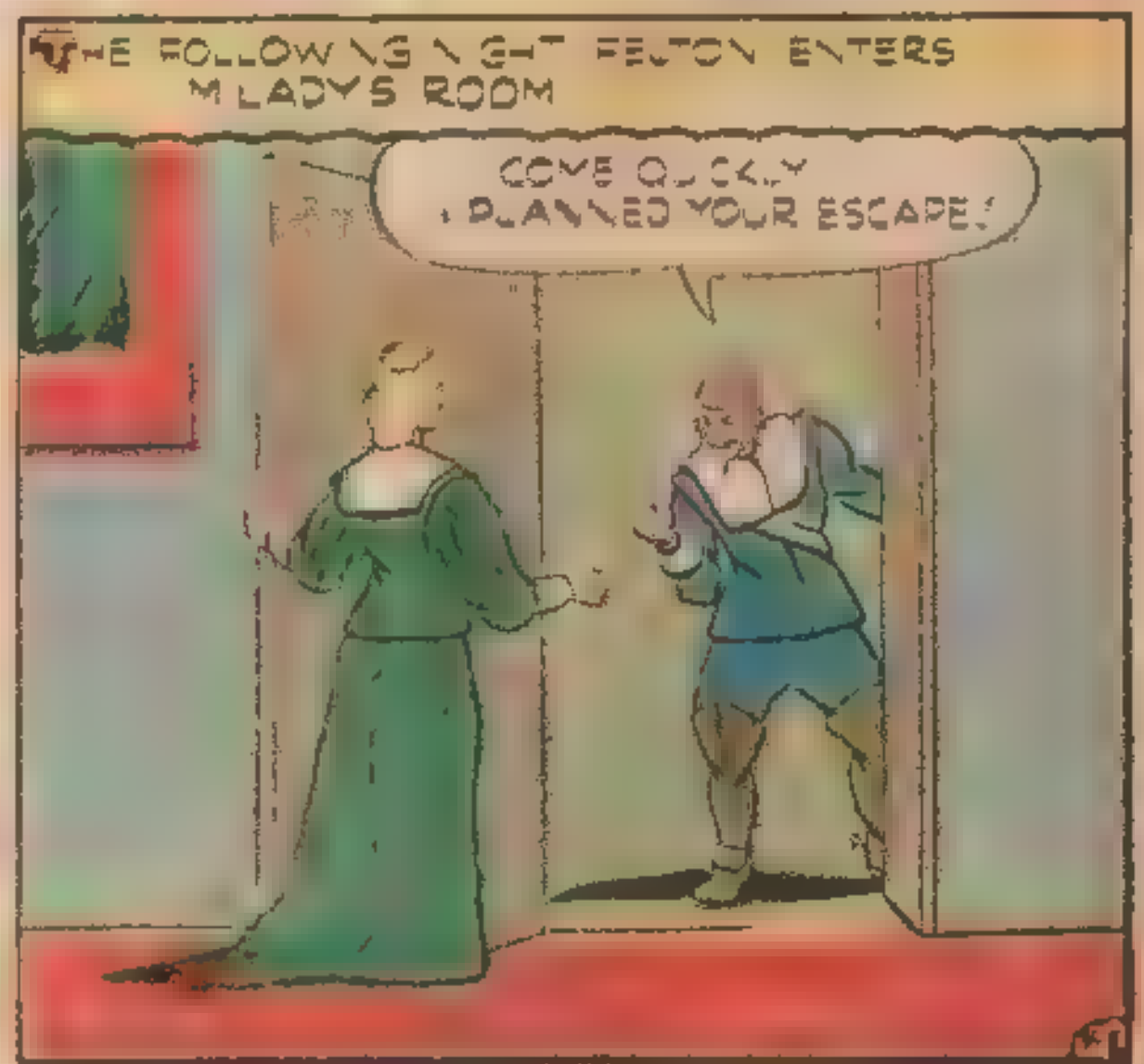
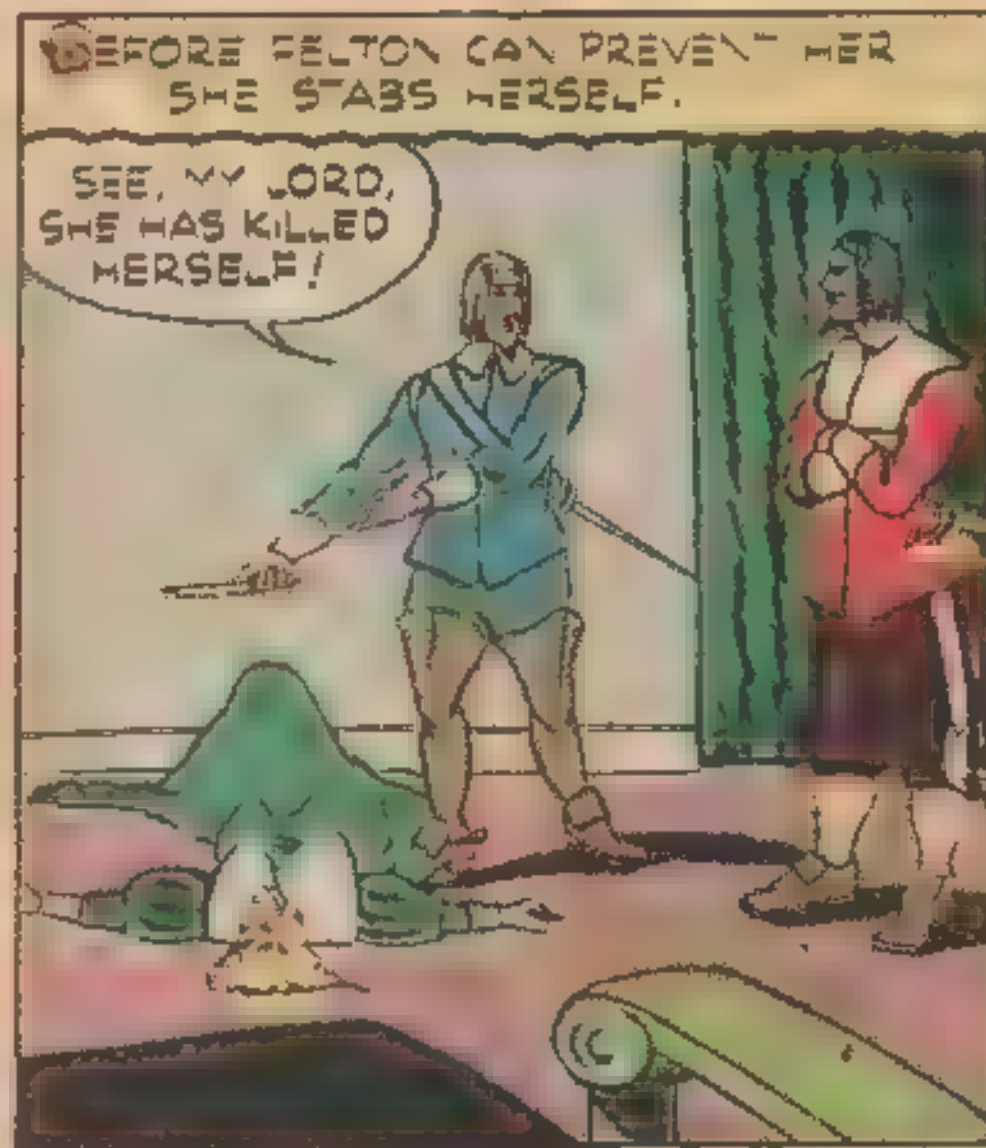
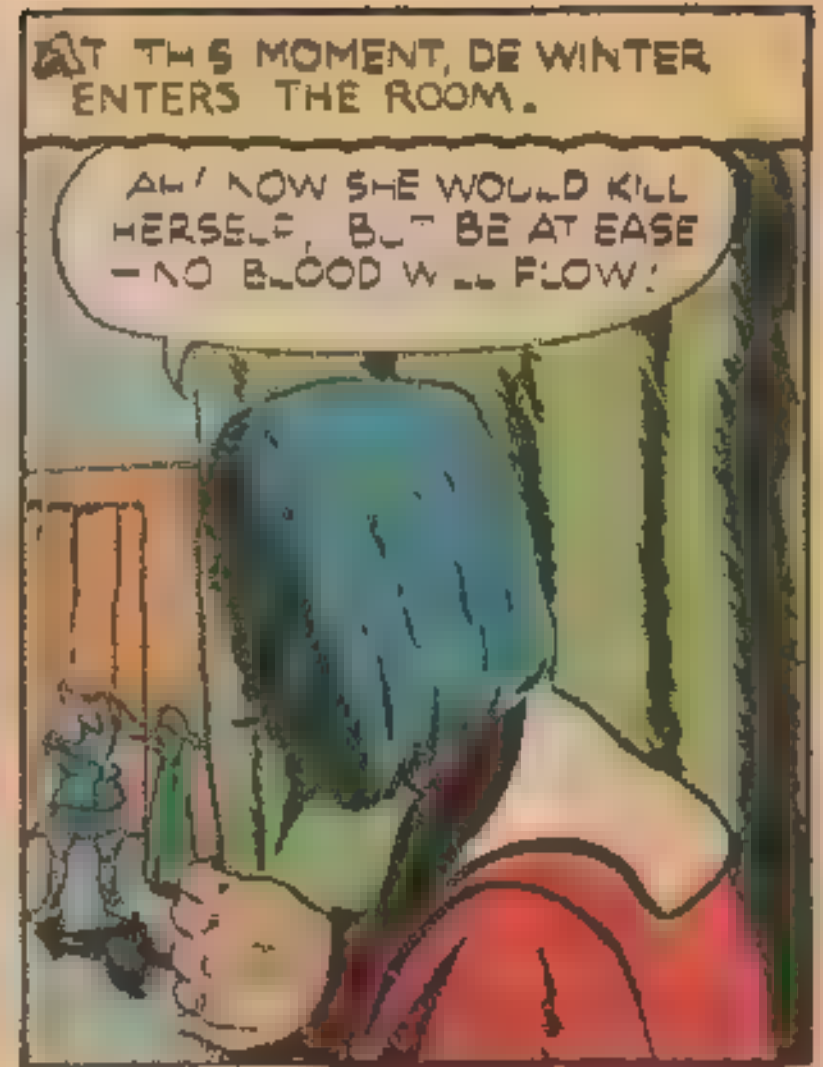
CLASSICS Illustrated



CLASSICS Illustrated

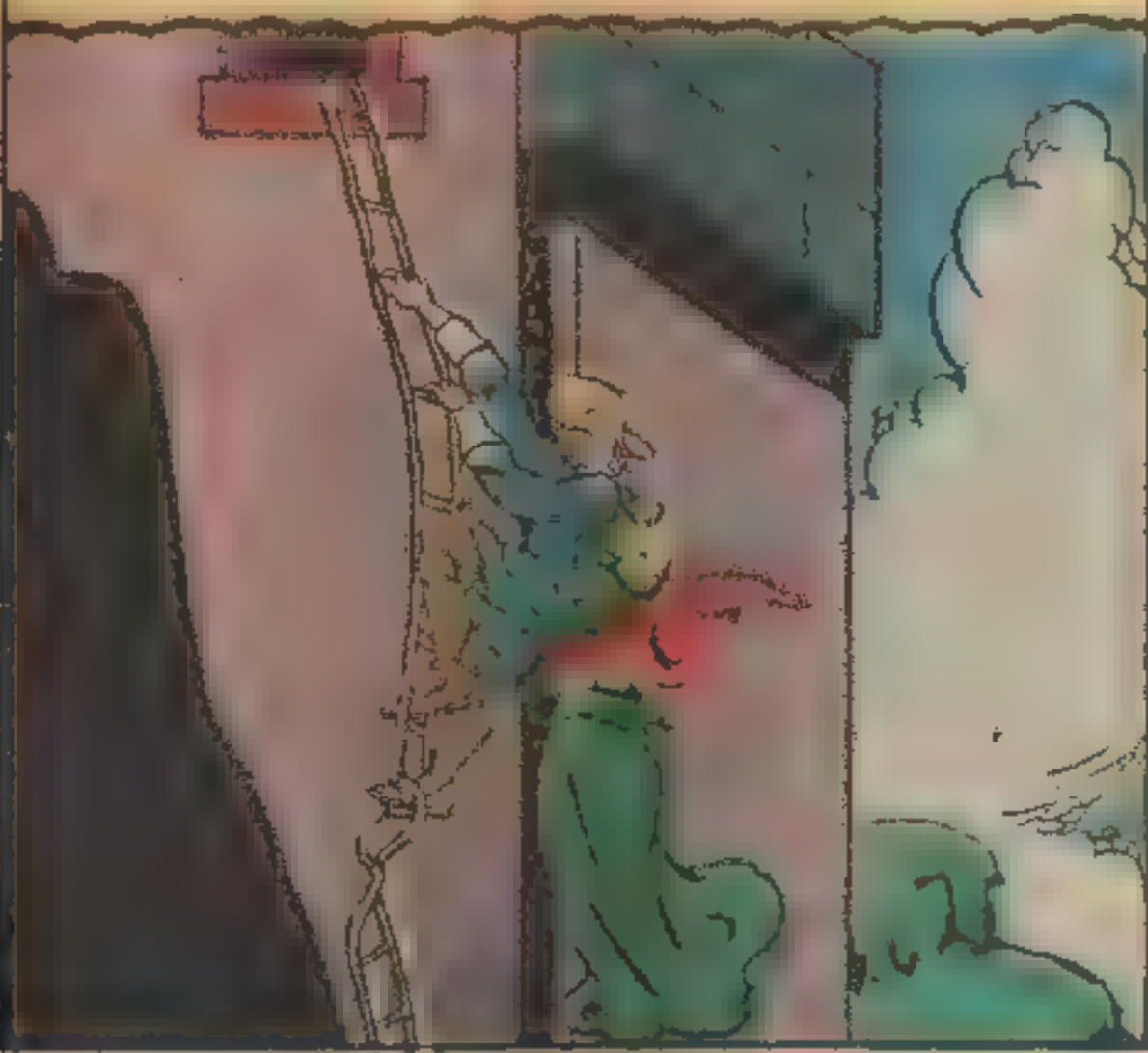


CLASSICS Illustrated

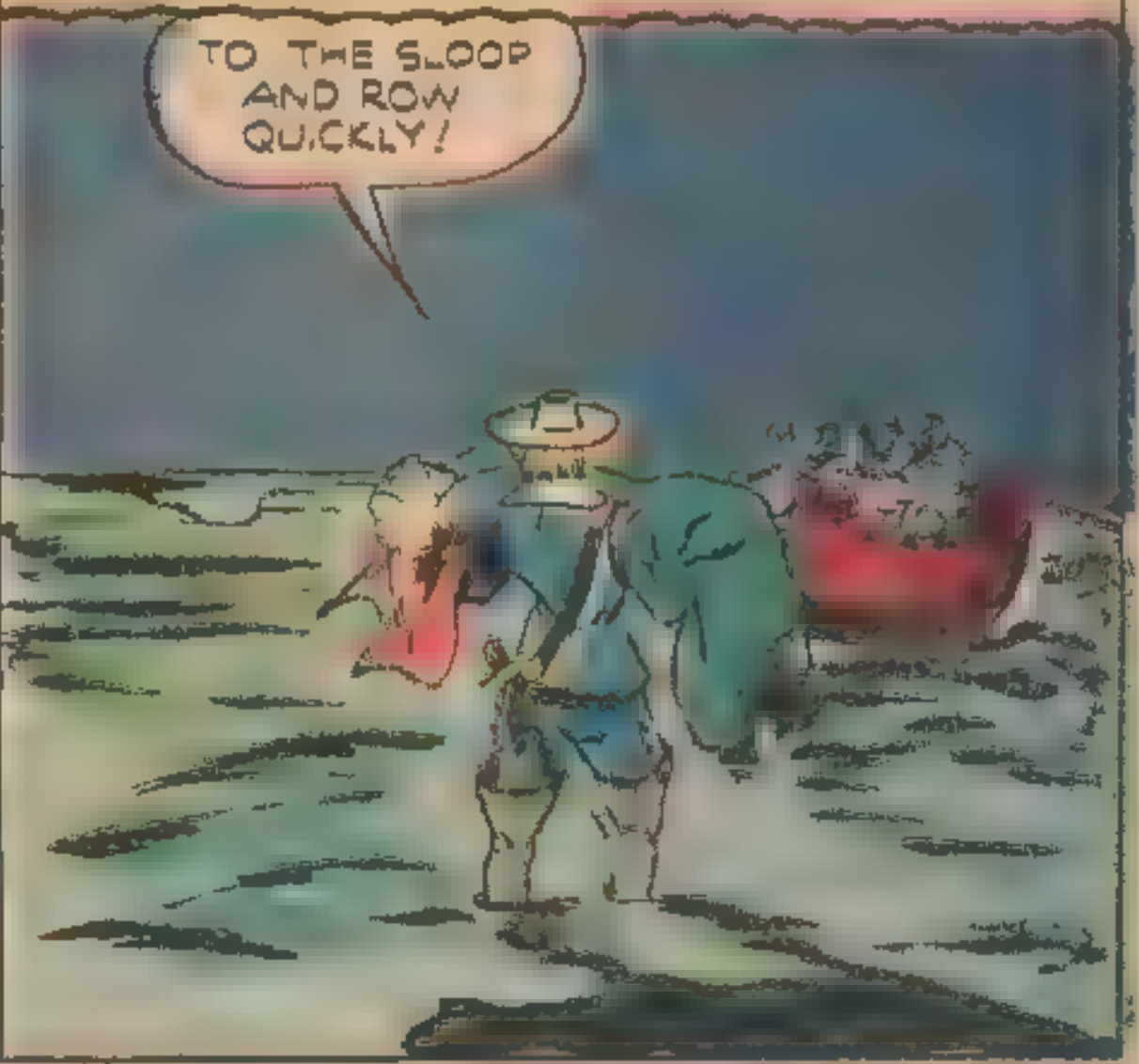


CLASSICS Illustrated

AFTER PRYING LOOSE THE BARRED WINDOW FELTON LETS HIMSELF AND MILADY DOWN A ROPE TO THE ROCKY SHORE BELOW.



AT FELTON'S WHISTLE, A BOAT APPEARS ROWED BY FOUR MEN. MILADY AND FELTON GET IN.



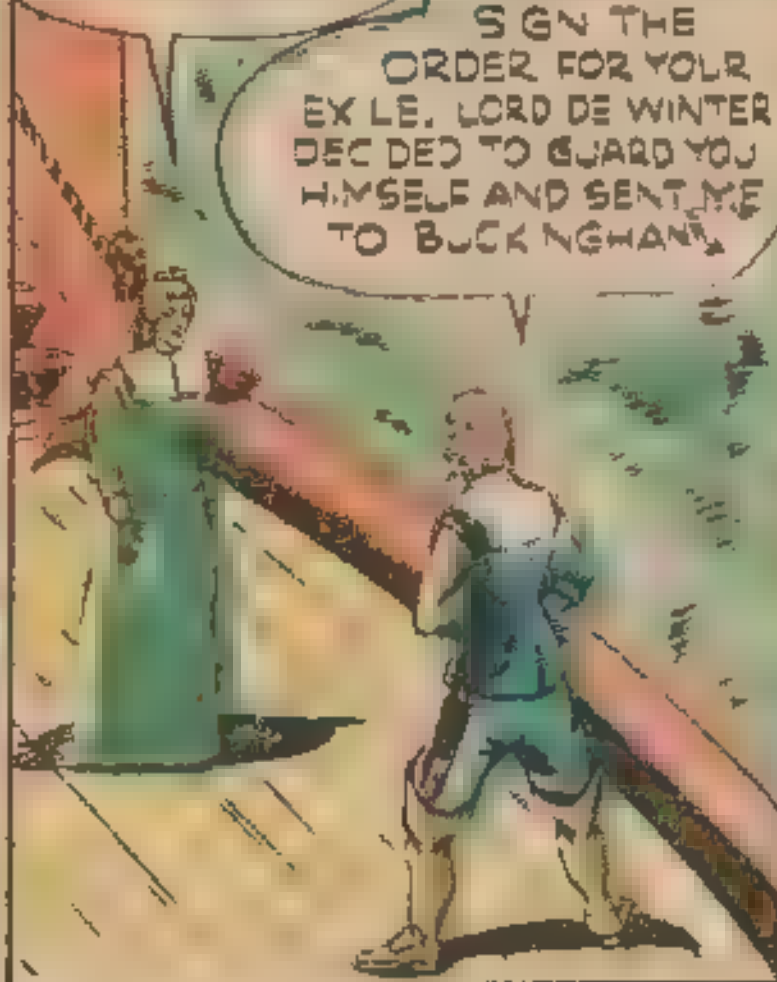
IN A FEW MINUTES THEY ARE ABOARD THE SLOOP.

THE CAPTAIN WILL TAKE YOU TO FRANCE AFTER HE HAS PUT ME ASHORE AT PORTSMOUTH.



WHAT ARE YOU TO DO IN PORTSMOUTH?

HAVE BUCKINGHAM SIGN THE ORDER FOR YOUR EXILE. LORD DE WINTER DECIDED TO GUARD YOU HIMSELF AND SENT ME TO BUCKINGHAM.



WHEN THE SLOOP REACHES PORTSMOUTH, FELTON BIDS ADIEU TO MILADY.

LL WAIT FOR YOU HERE. DO NOT FAIL!



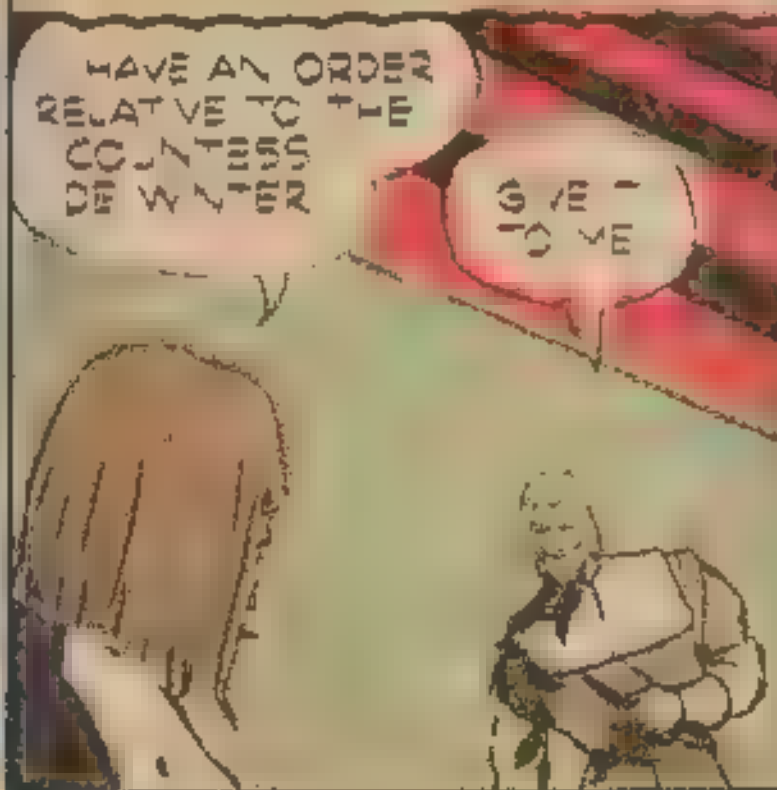
FELTON DISEMBARKS AND GOES TO THE PALACE OF THE ADMIRALTY.



PATRICK, THE DUKE'S VALET, ADMITS FELTON TO BUCKINGHAM'S CHAMBER.

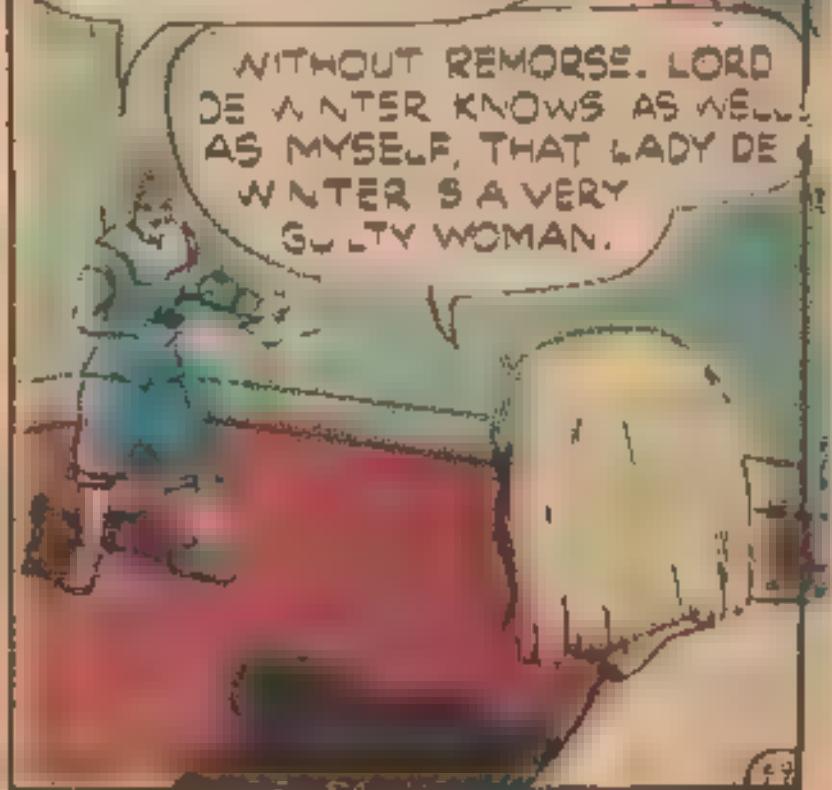
HAVE AN ORDER RELATIVE TO THE COUNTESS DE WINTER

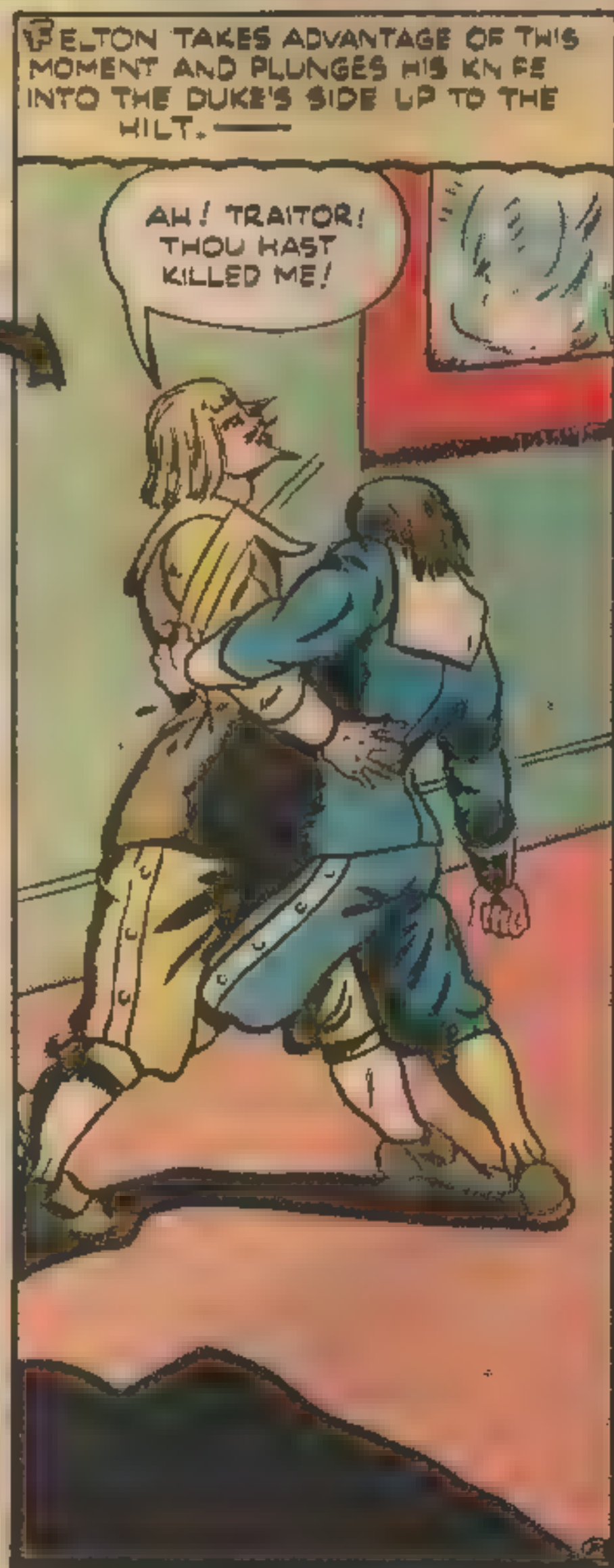
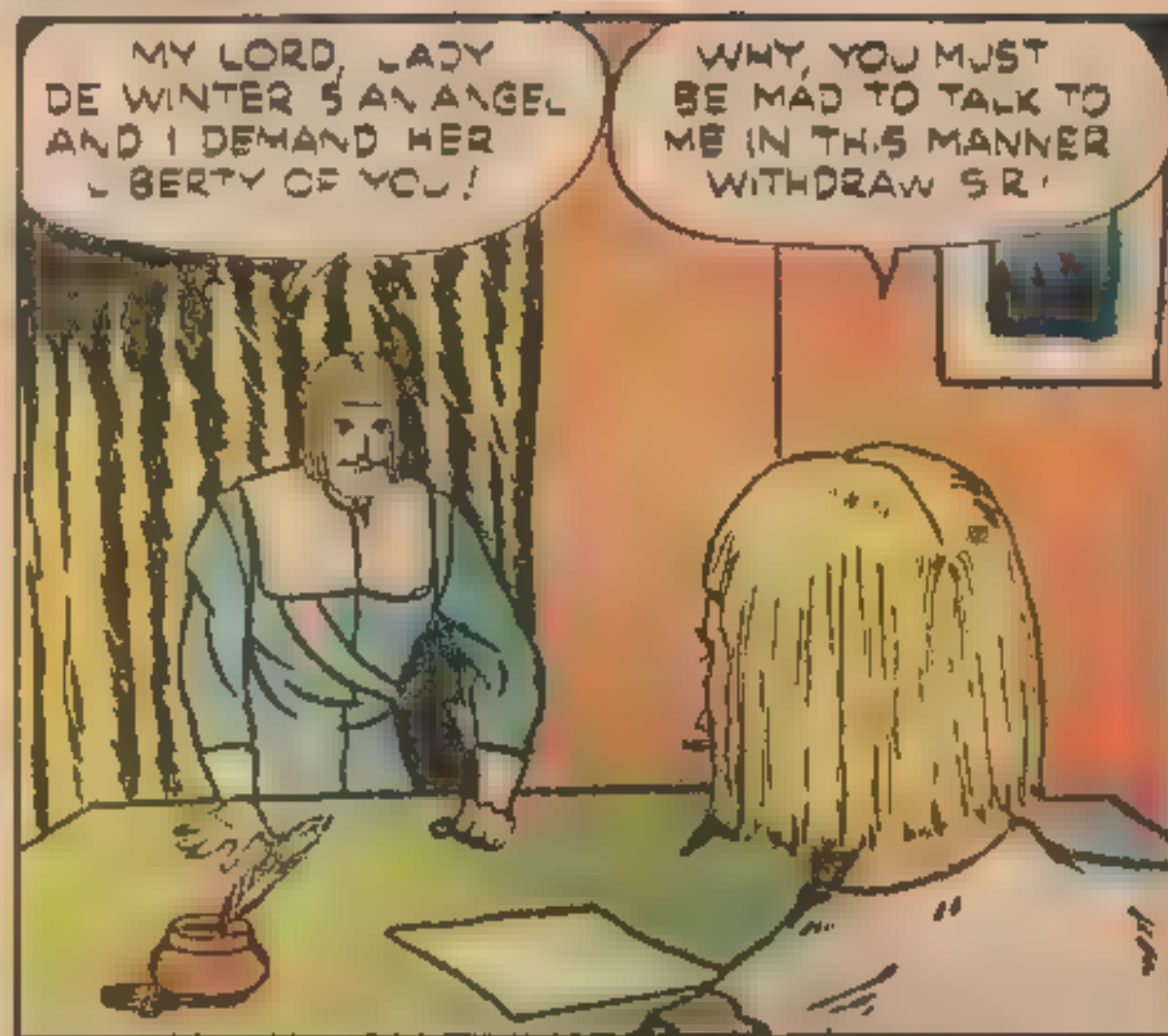
GIVE TO ME



WILL YOUR GRACE SIGN THAT ORDER WITHOUT REMORSE?

WITHOUT REMORSE. LORD DE WINTER KNOWS AS WELL AS MYSELF, THAT LADY DE WINTER IS A VERY GUILTY WOMAN.





CLASSICS Illustrated

MEANWHILE, THE DUKE IS CARRIED TO A COUCH BY PATRICK. THE DUKE'S SURGEON ENTERS AND EXAMINES HIM.



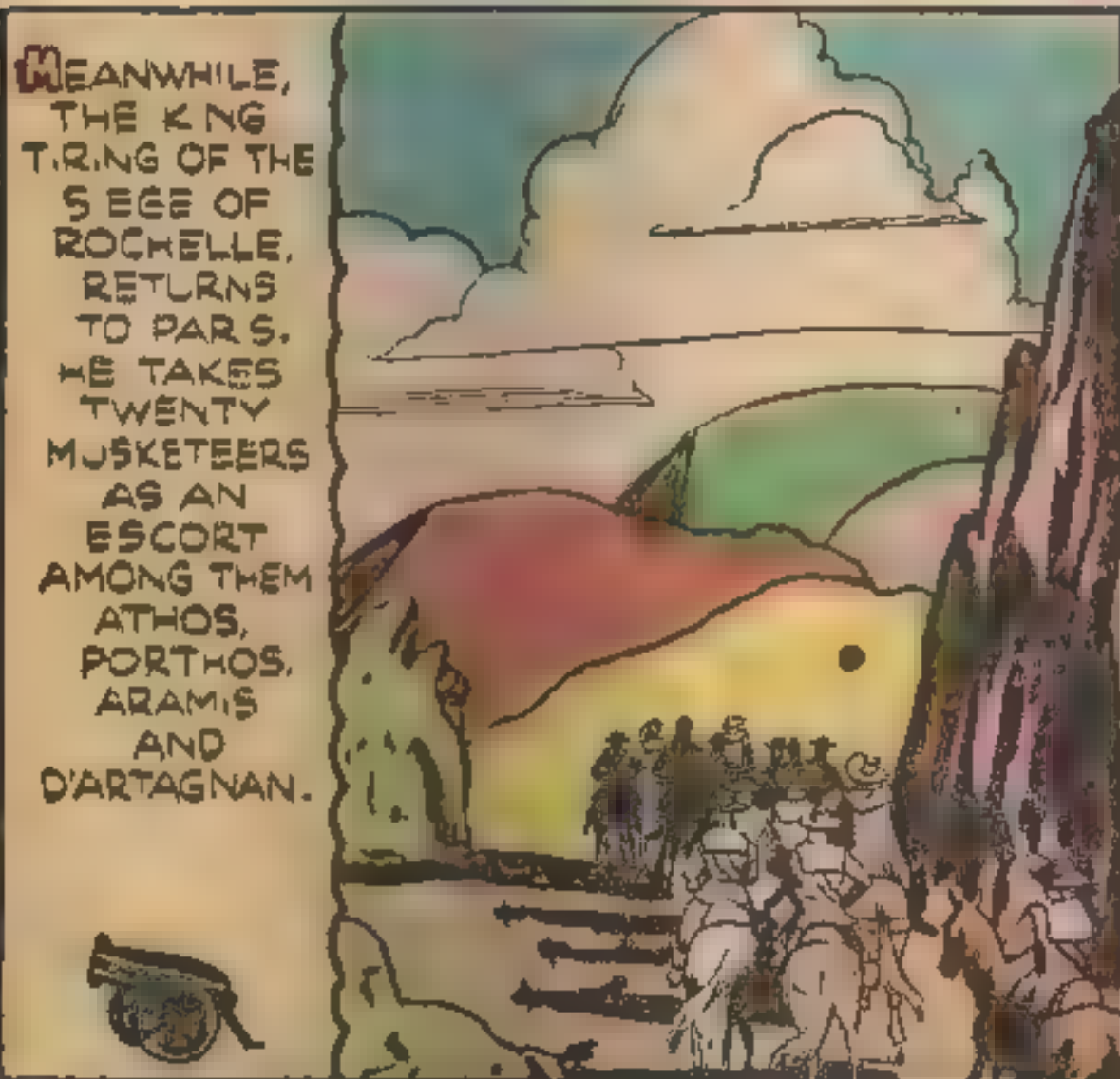
LORD DE WINTER APPROACHES FELTON.



LORD DE WINTER DESCENDS THE STAIRS AND MAKES STRAIGHT FOR THE PORT.



MEANWHILE, THE KING, TIRING OF THE SIEGE OF ROCHELLE, RETURNS TO PARIS. HE TAKES TWENTY MUSKETEERS AS AN ESCORT. AMONG THEM ATHOS, PORTHOS, ARAMIS AND D'ARTAGNAN.



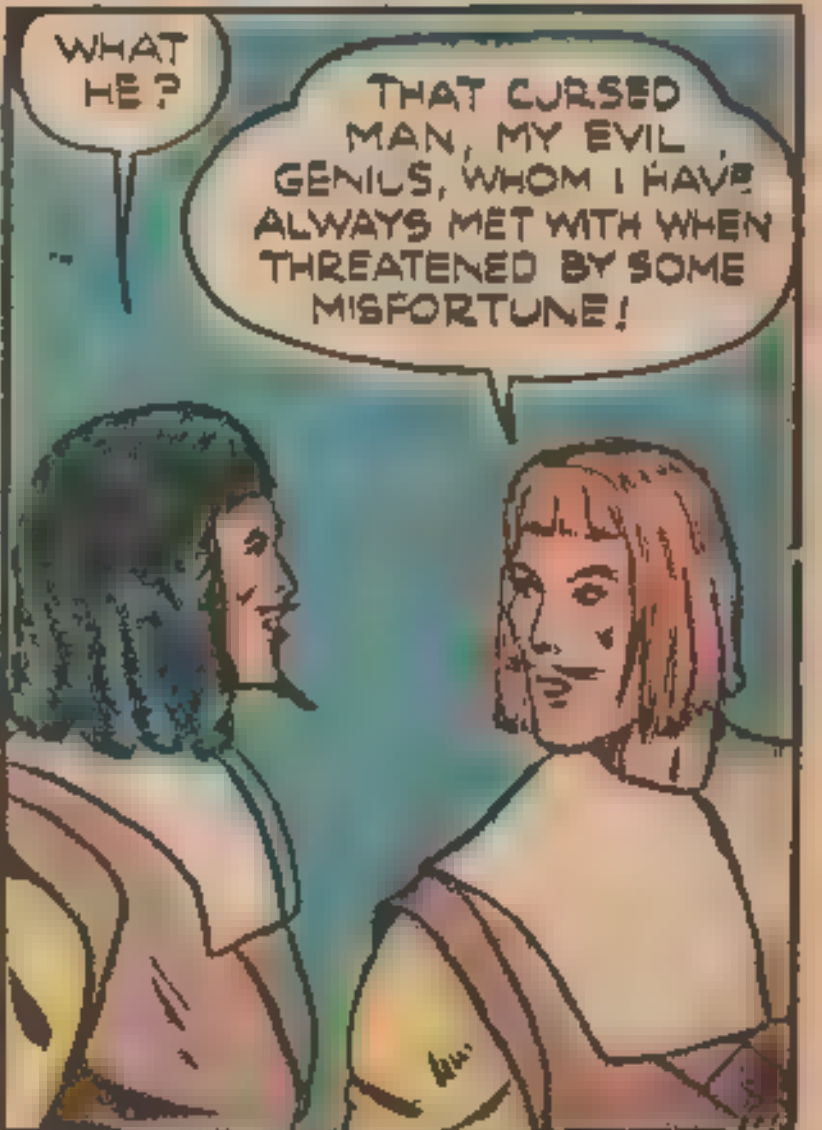
WHEN THEY ARRIVE IN PARIS, DE TREVILLE GRANTS LEAVES OF ABSENCE TO THE FOUR FRIENDS.



THE FOUR MUSKETEERS AND THEIR LACKEYS SET OUT AT ONCE FOR BETHUNE AND THE CONVENT OF THE CARMELITES.



THAT EVENING, AS THEY DISMOUNT AT A HOTEL IN ARRAS, A HORSEMAN GALLOPS OUT OF THE POSTING-YARD.



CLASSICS Illustrated



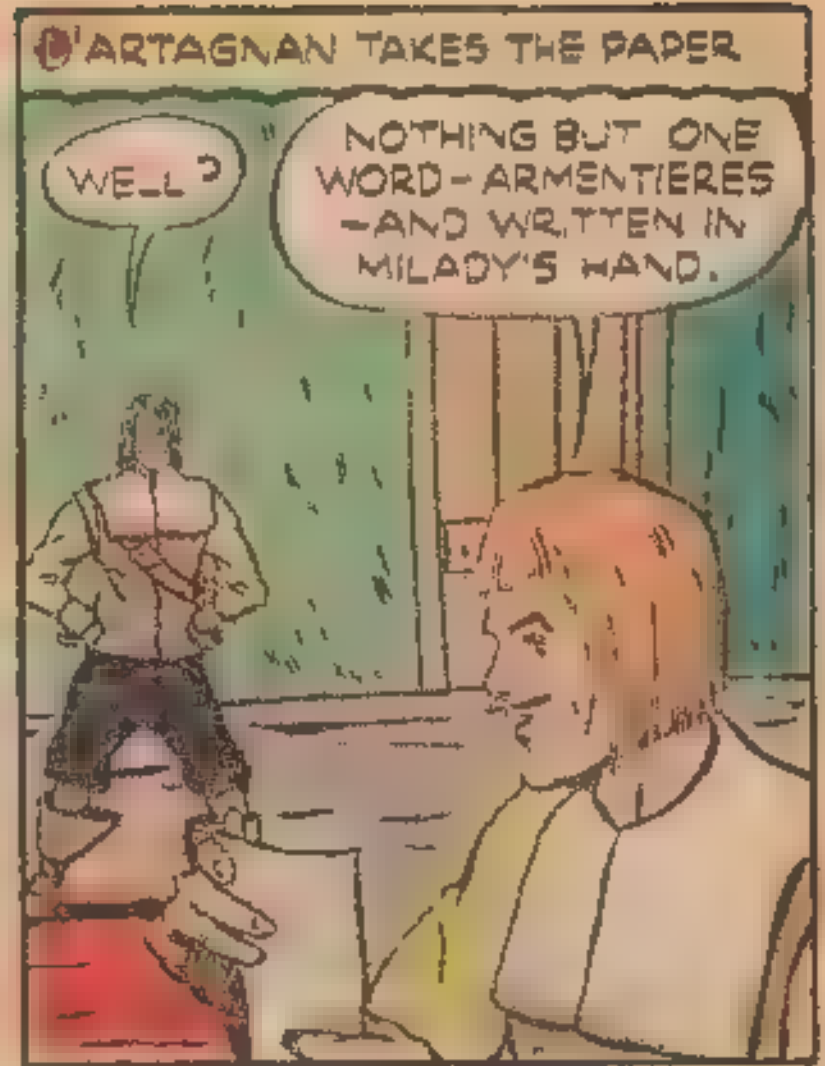
A STABLEBOY RUNS AFTER THE MAN OF MEUNG.

MONSIEUR! HERE IS A PAPER WHICH DROPPED FROM YOUR HAT!



FR END, A HALF-PISTOLE FOR THAT PAPER!

MA FOI! MONSIEUR, HERE IT IS!



D'ARTAGNAN TAKES THE PAPER

WELL?

NOTHING BUT ONE WORD - ARMENTIERES - AND WRITTEN IN MILADY'S HAND.



MILADY IS IN FRANCE! TO HORSE, GENTLEMEN!



THE FOUR FRIENDS AND THEIR LACKEYS GALLOP OFF TO BETHUNE.



MILADY HAS ARRIVED IN FRANCE AND EVEN NOW IS AT THE CONVENT, GREETING THE MOTHER SUPERIOR.

I WOULD LIKE TO REST HERE FOR A WHILE.



THE ABBESS SHOWS MILADY TO A SMALL ROOM.

DO I BEHOLD IN YOU ANOTHER POOR PERSECUTED WOMAN?

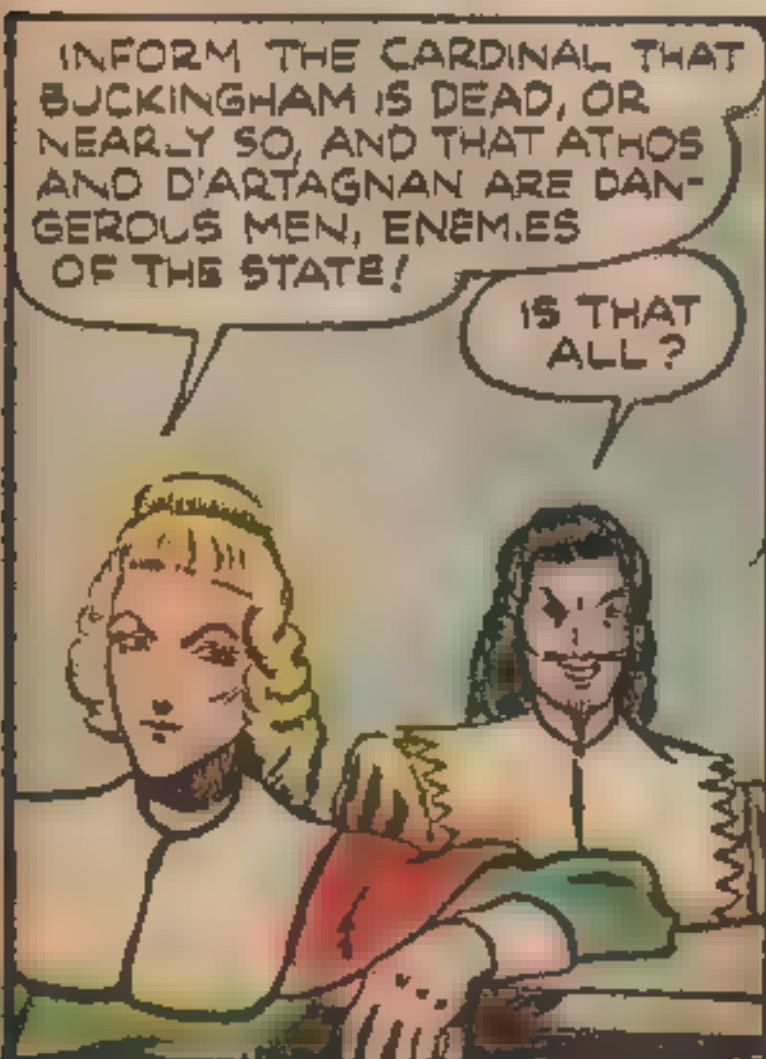
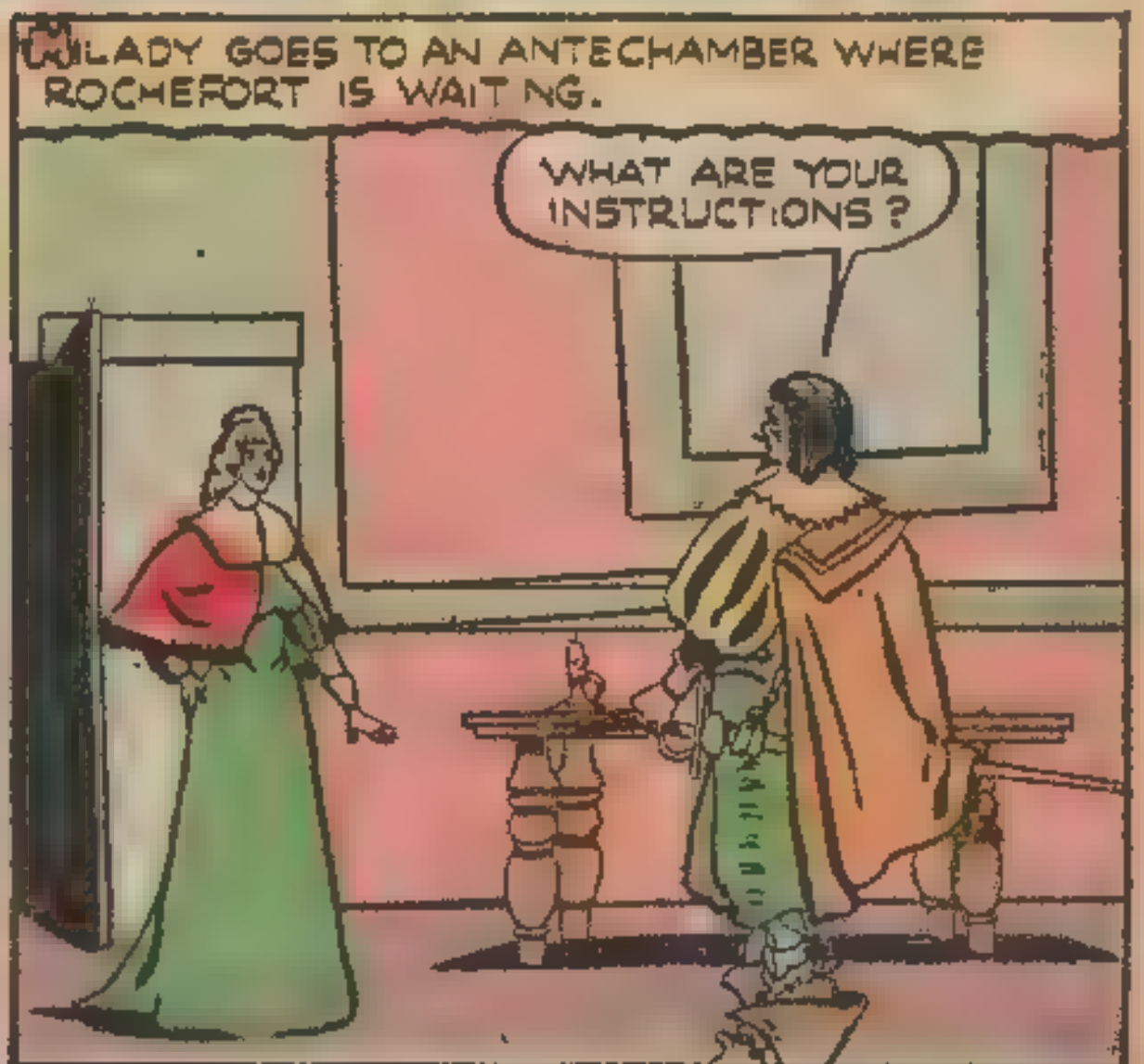
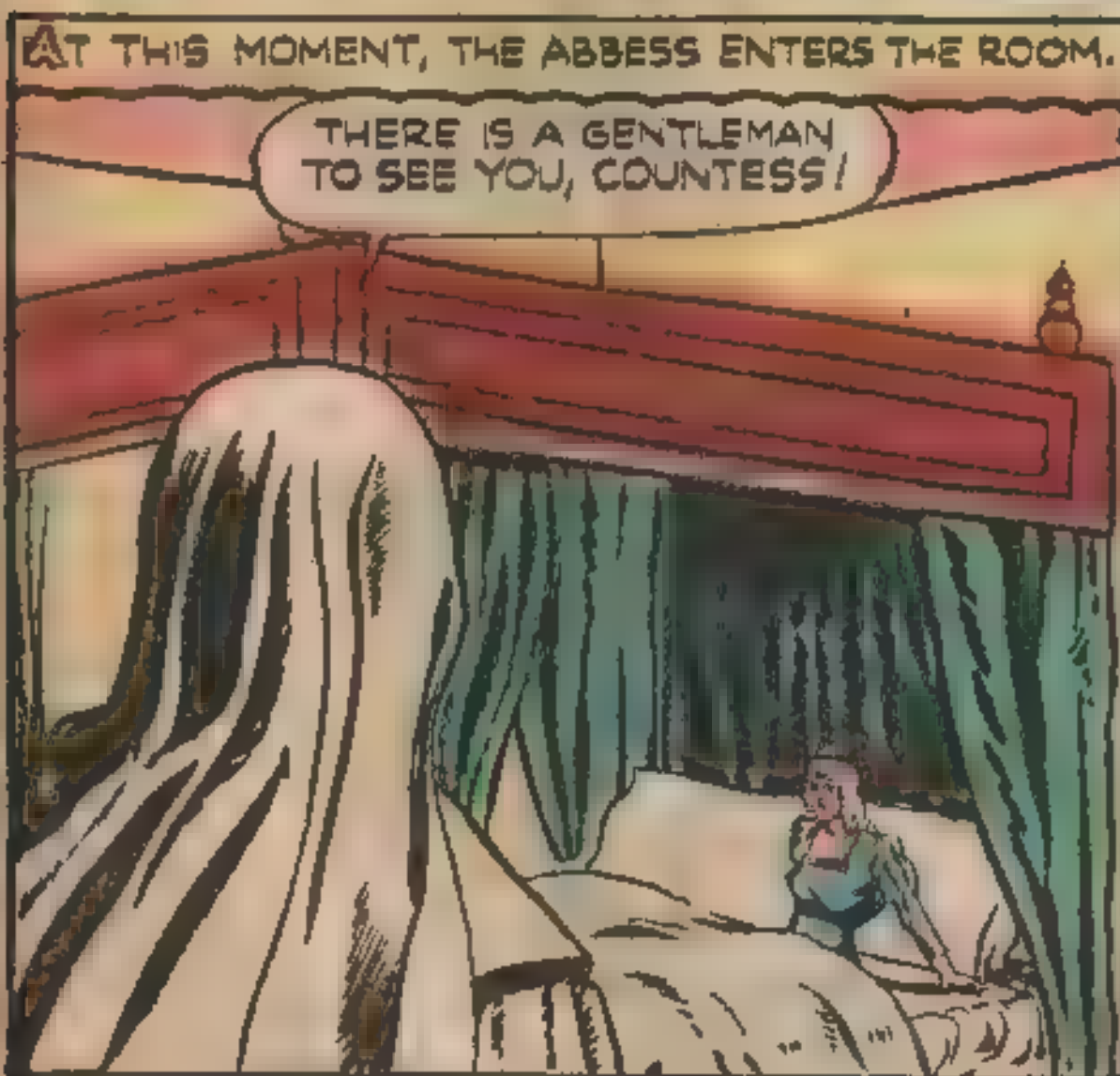
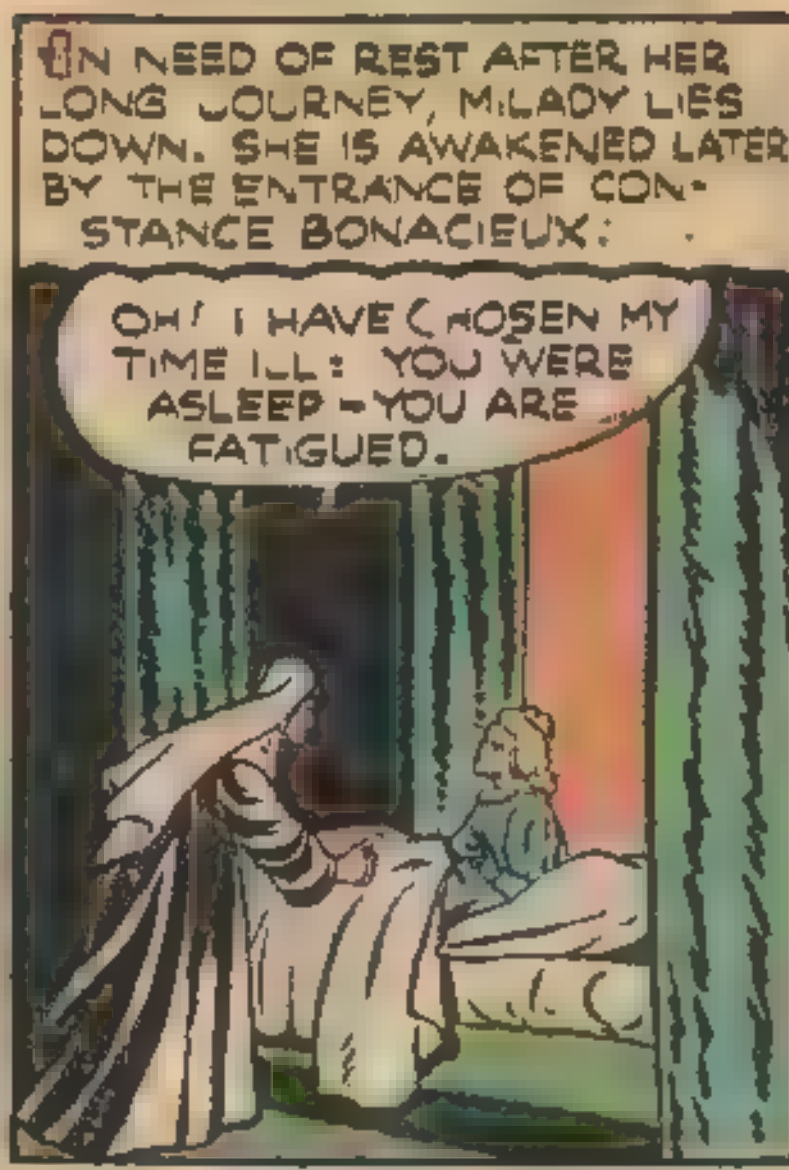
ALAS! YES.

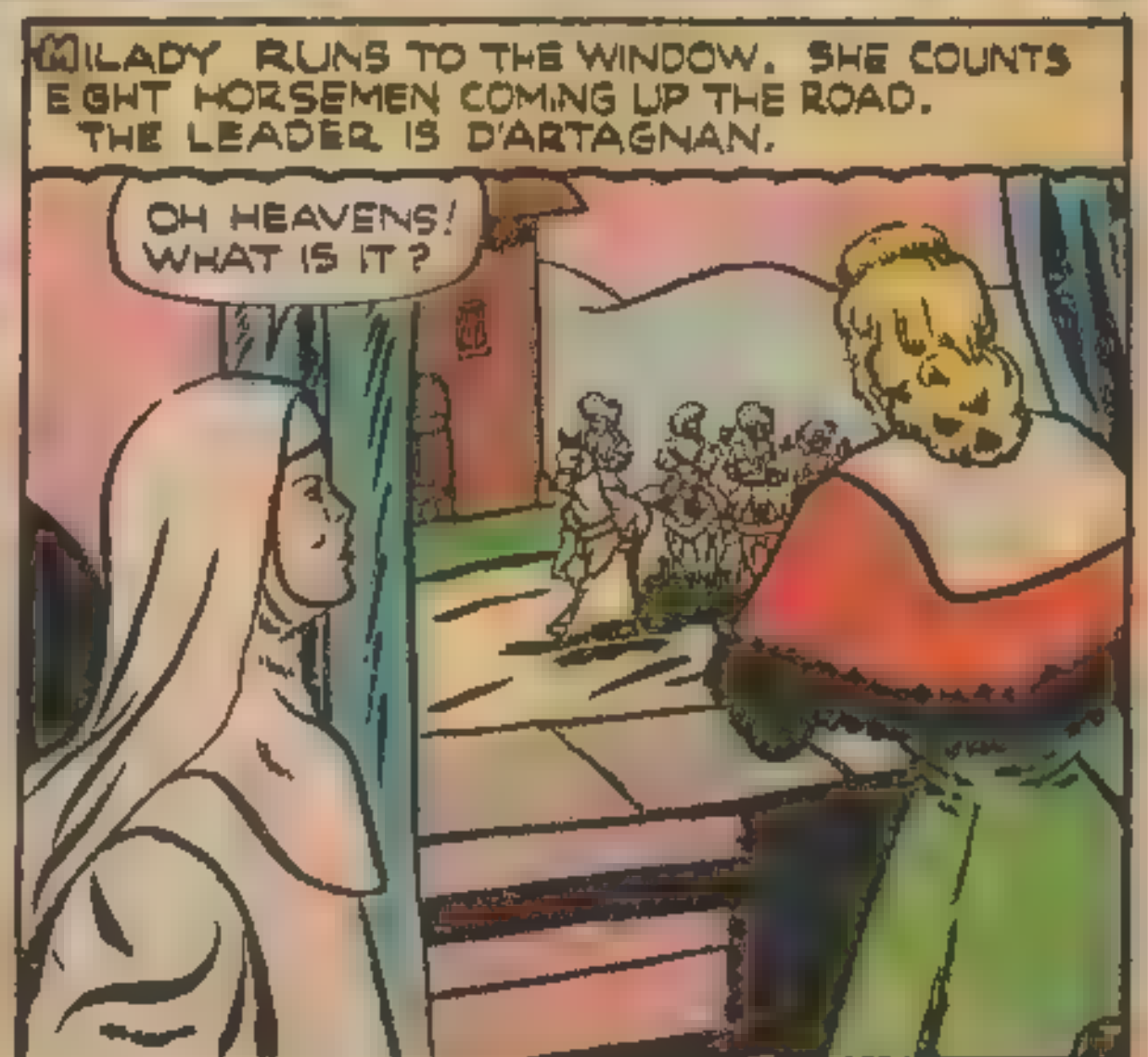
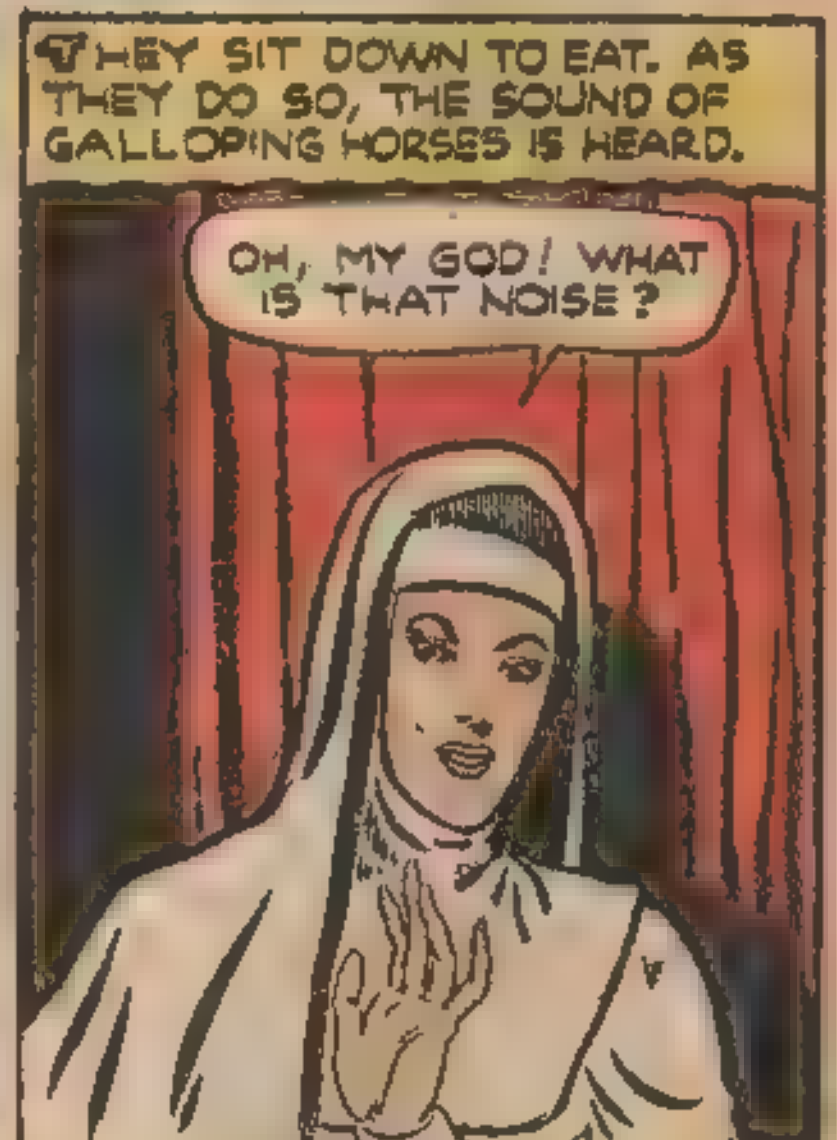
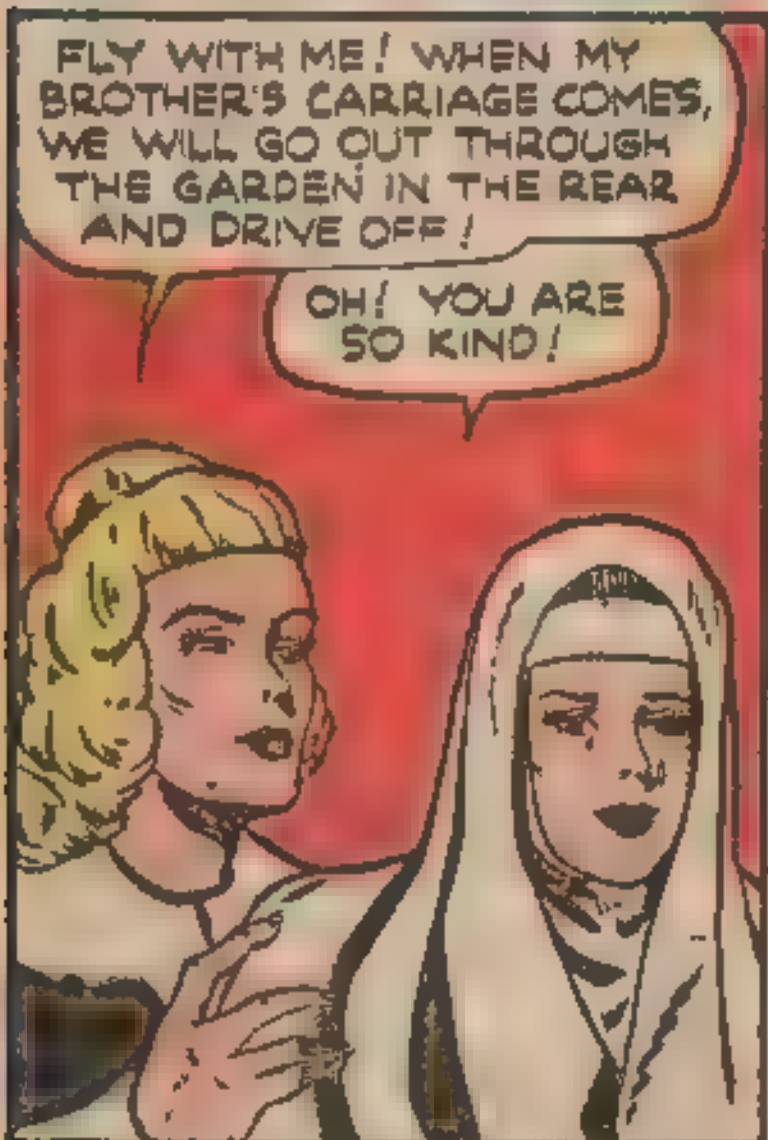
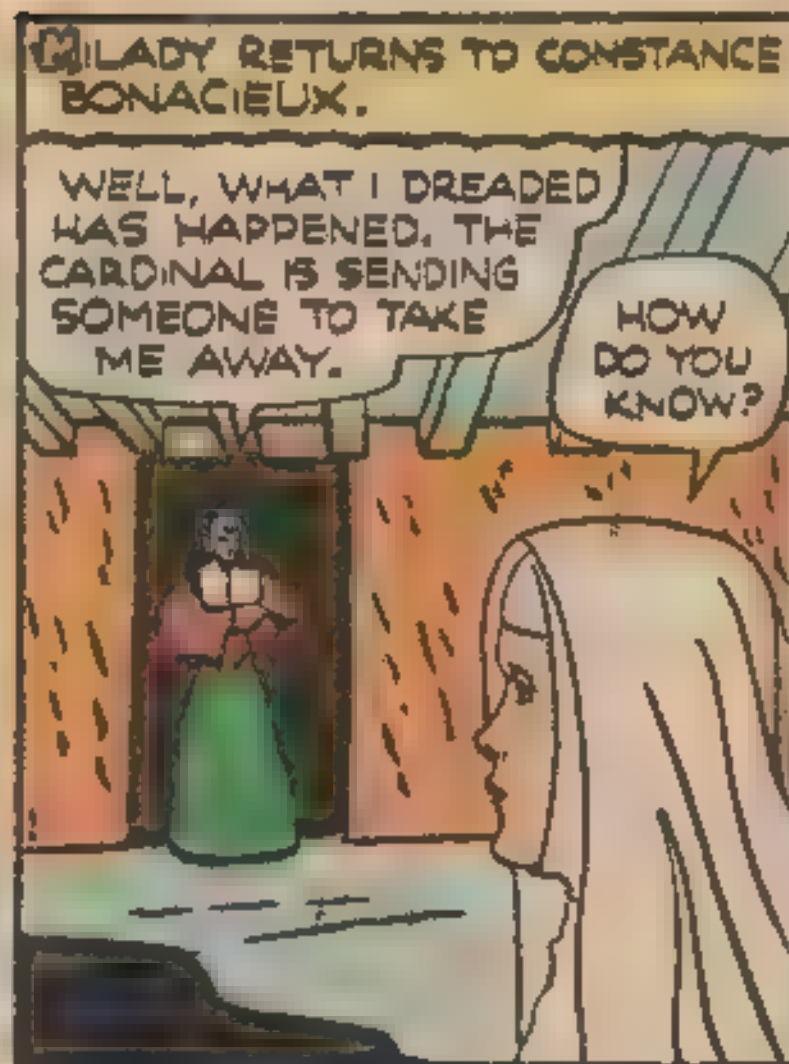


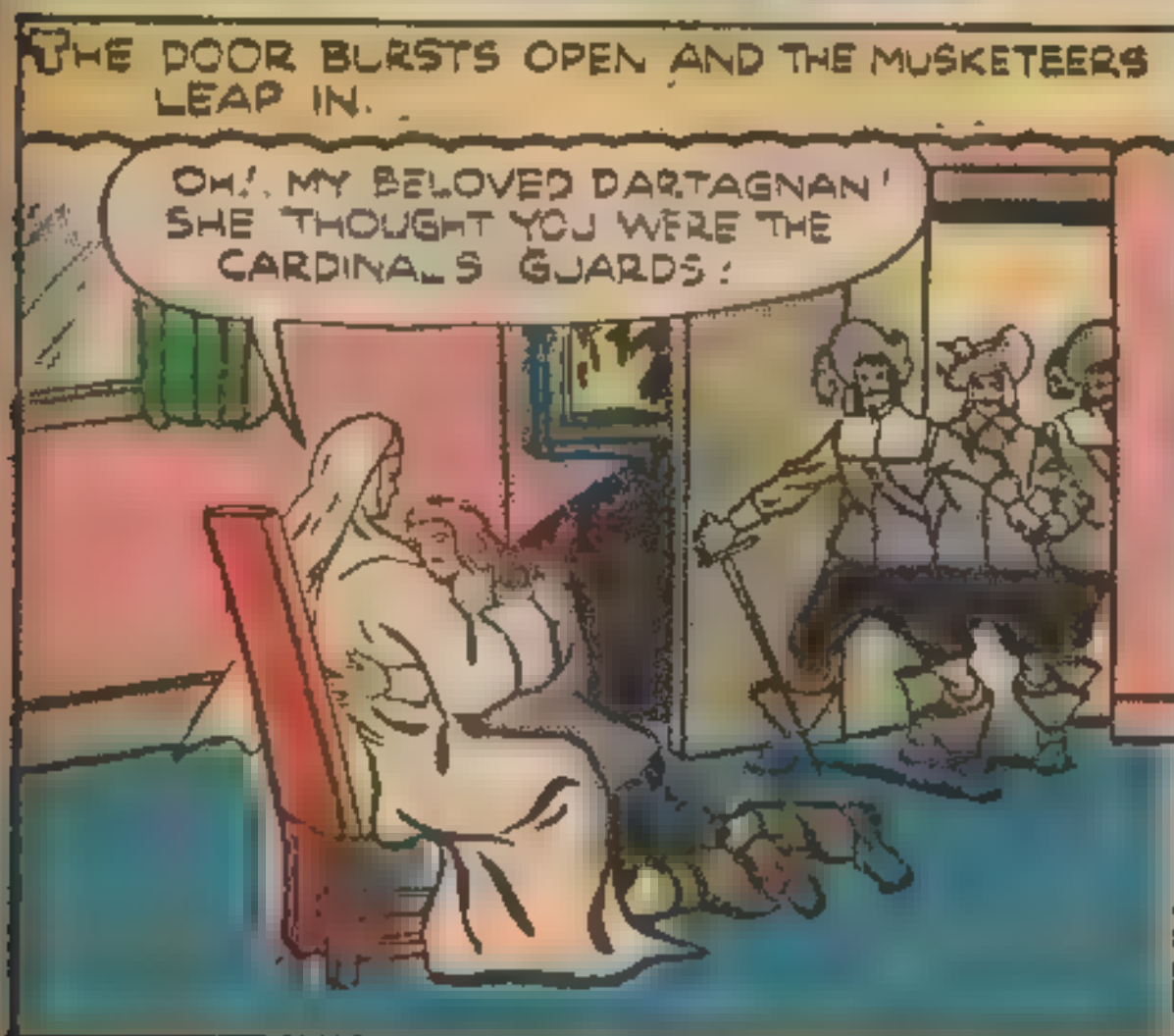
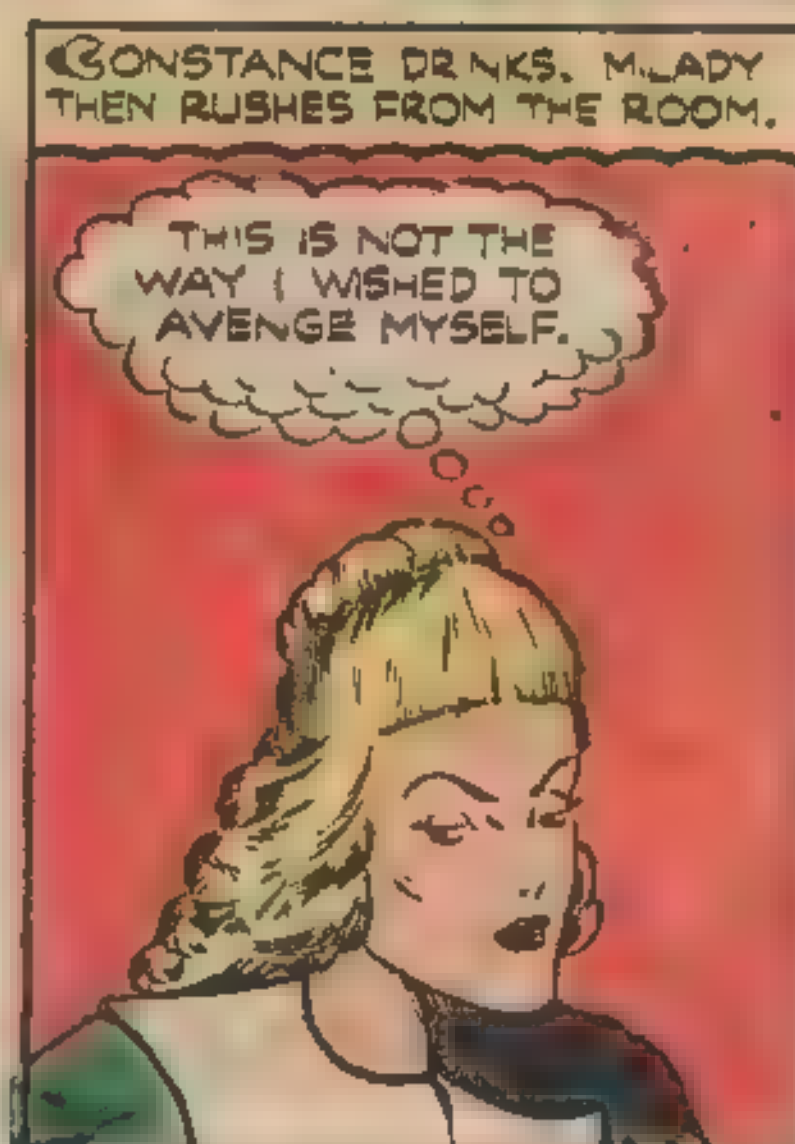
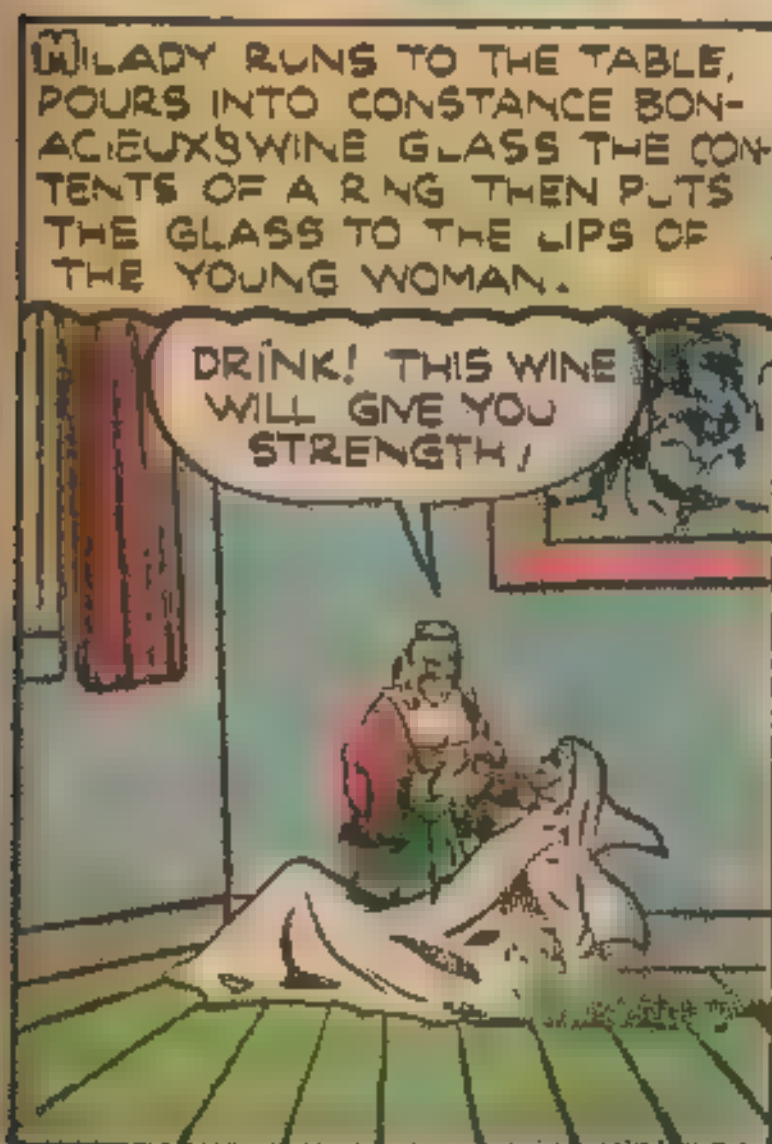
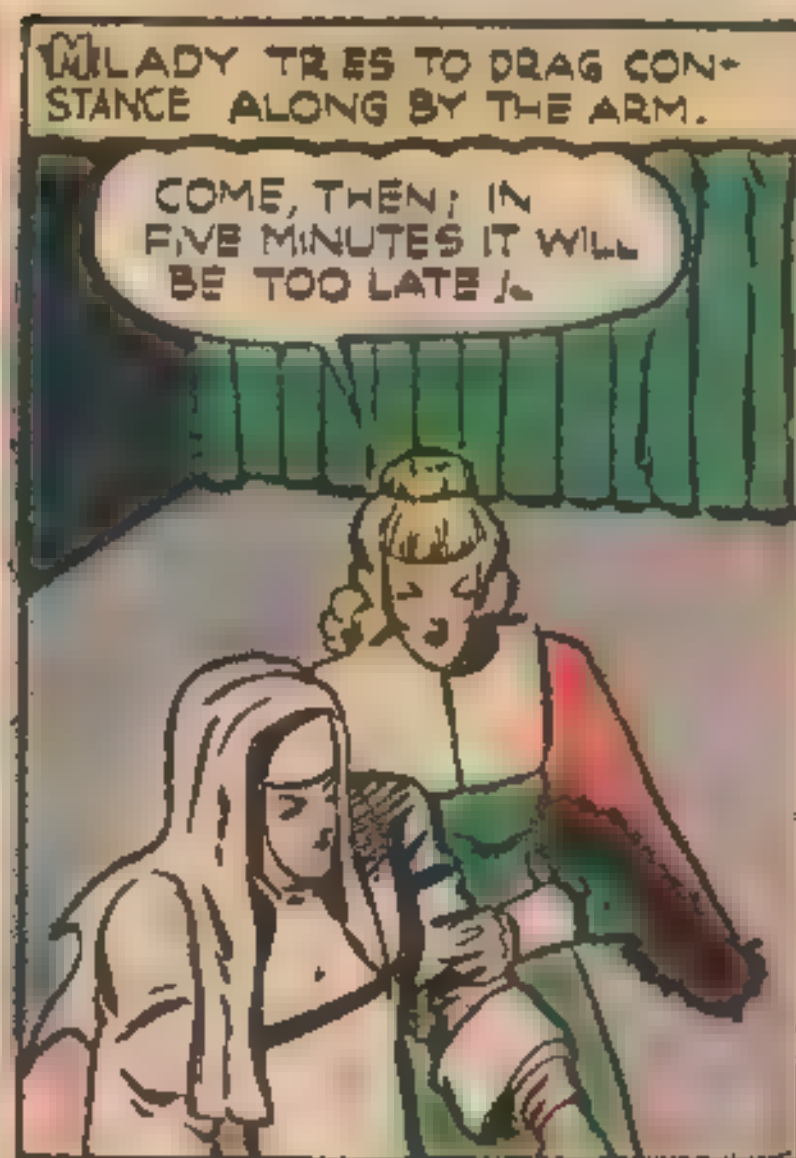
WE HAVE HERE A YOUNG WOMAN WHO ALSO IS PERSECUTED. ONE CONSTANCE BONACELUX.

WHEN CAN I SEE THIS YOUNG LADY FOR WHOM I ALREADY FEEL SO GREAT A SYMPATHY?

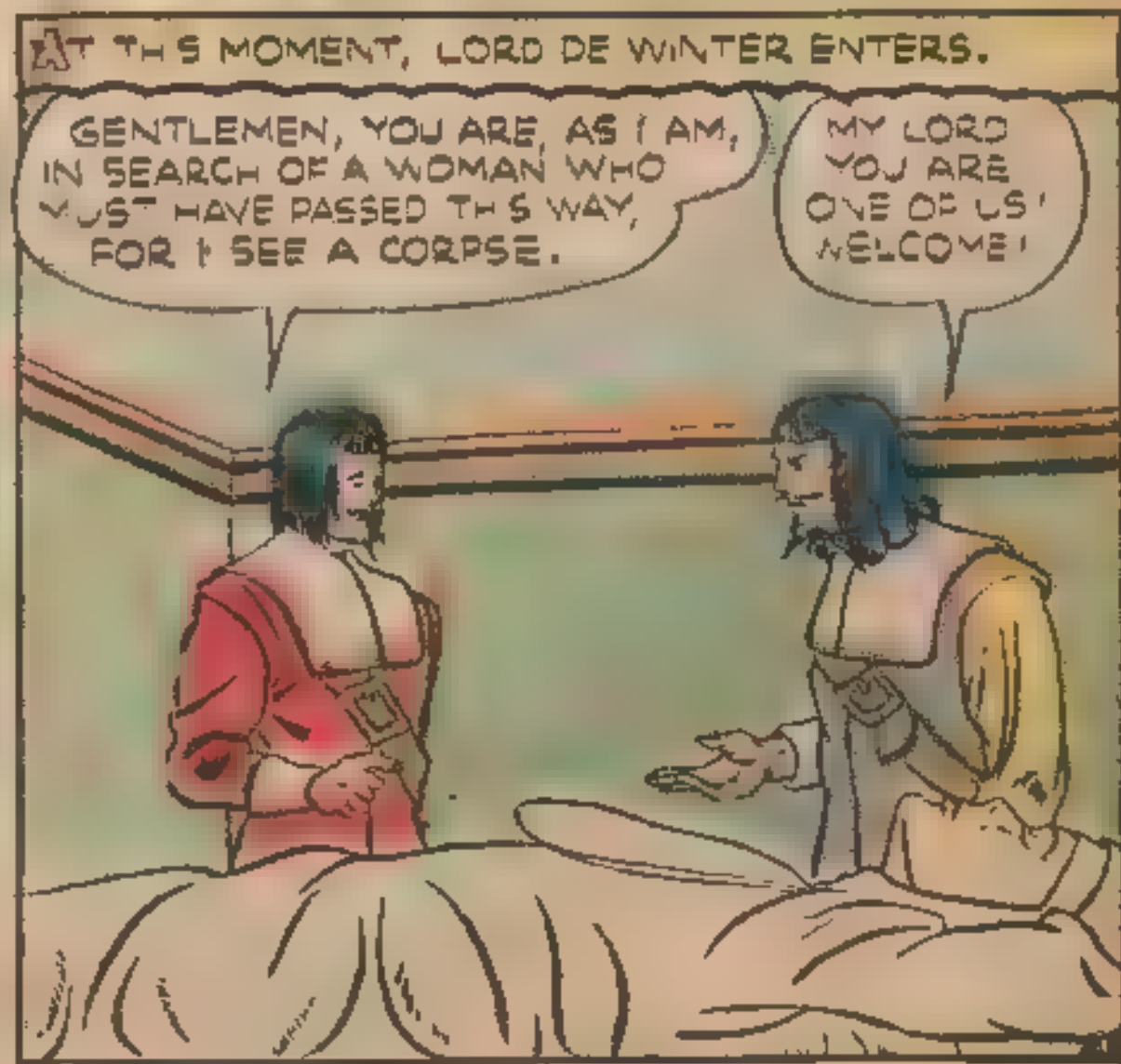
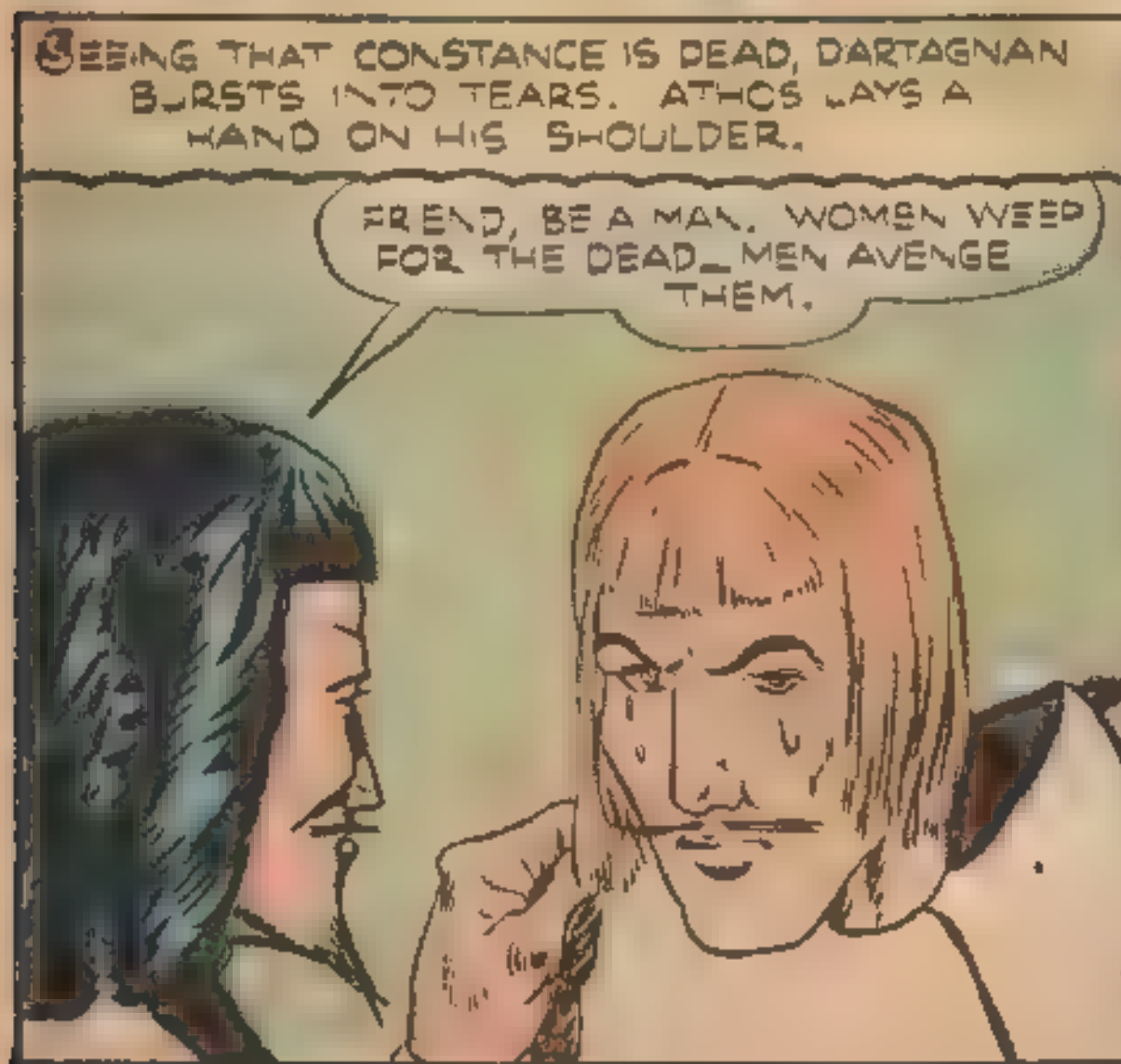
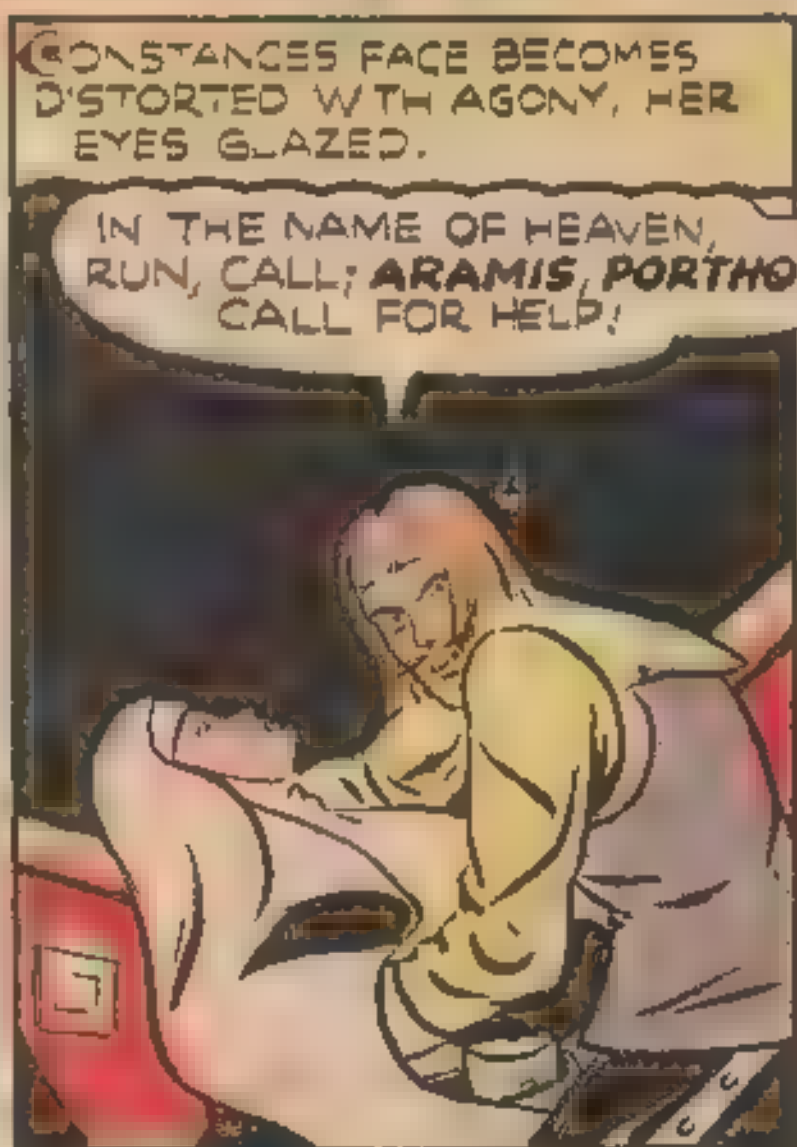
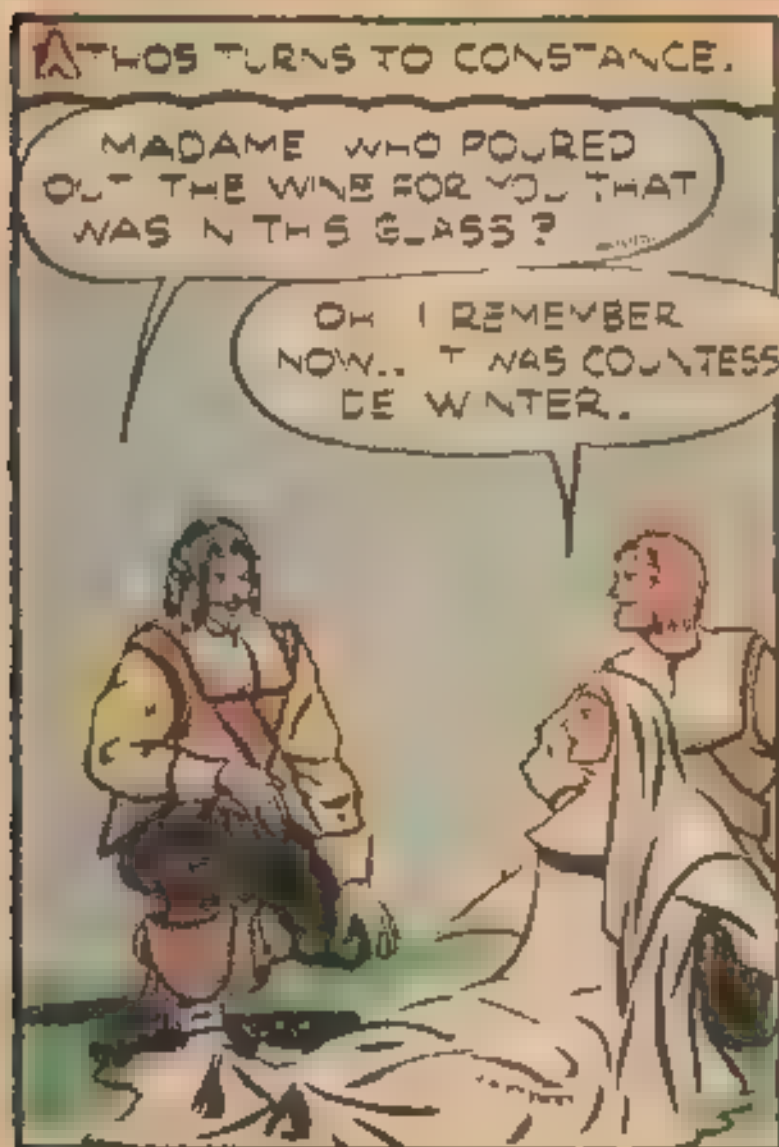
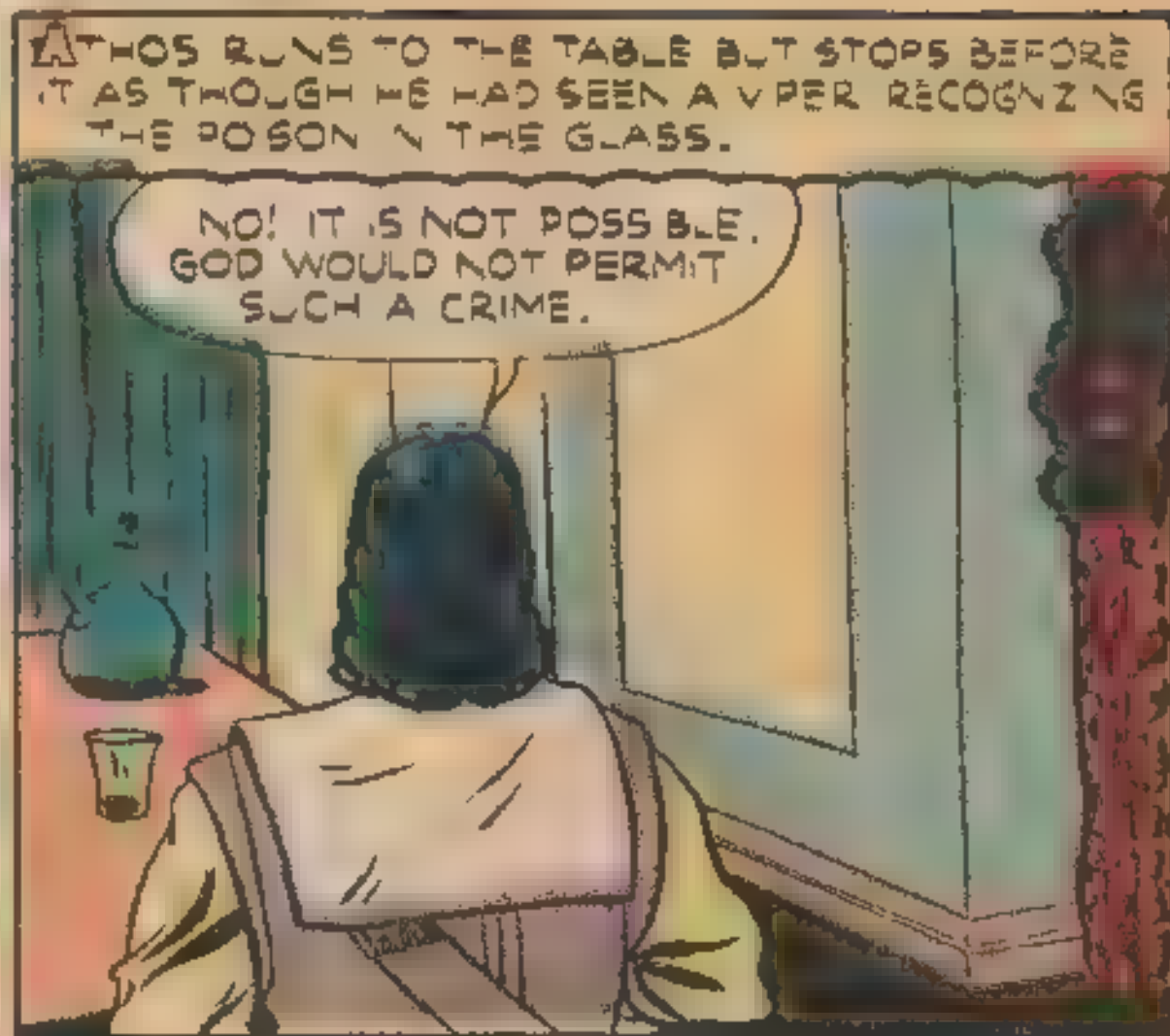
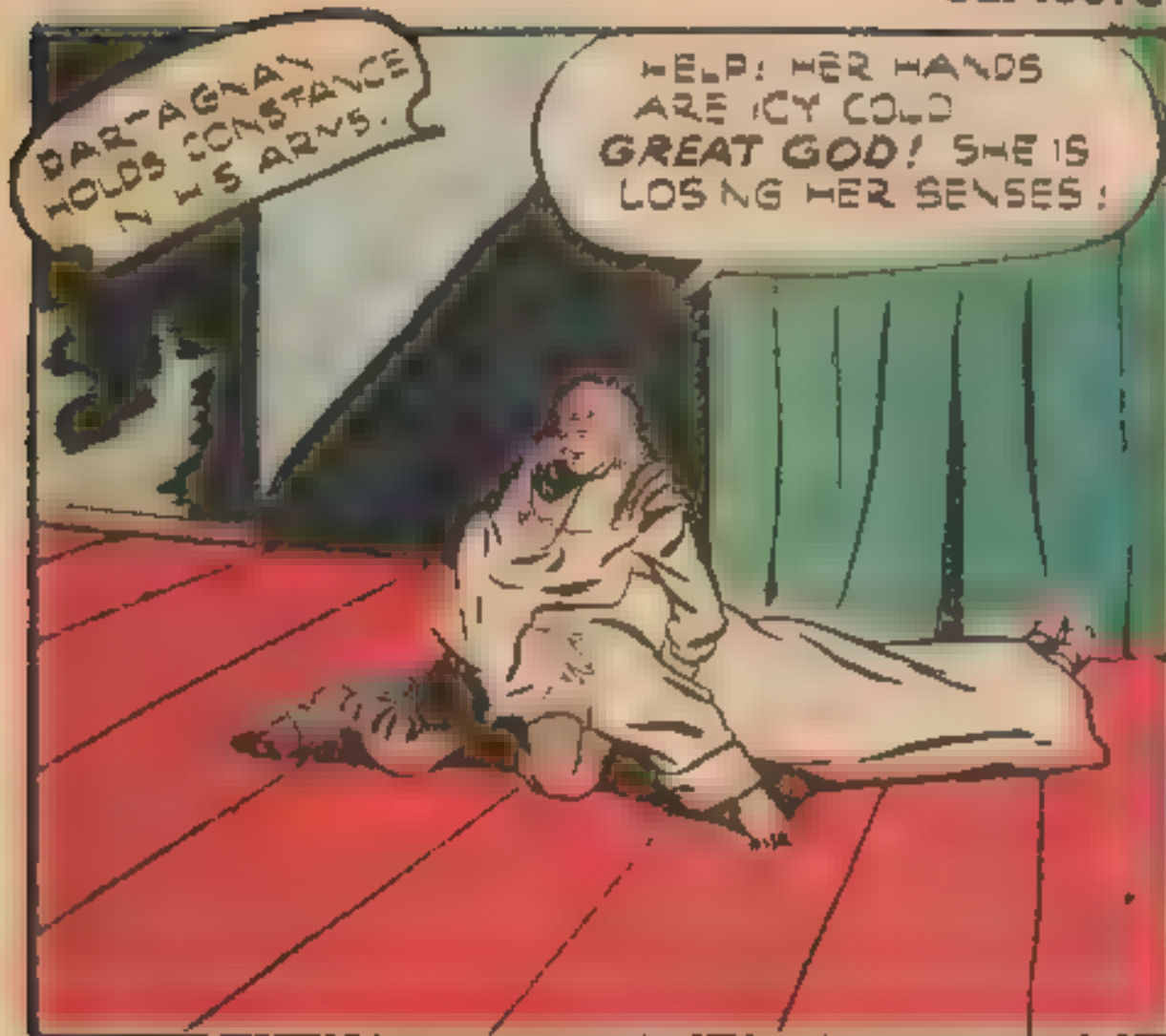
CLASSICS Illustrated







CLASSICS Illustrated



CLASSICS Illustrated

ATHOS SENDS ARAMIS FOR THE SUPERIOR AND WHEN SHE APPEARS ADDRESSES HER.

MADAME, WE ABANDON TO YOUR PIOUS CARE THE BODY OF THAT UNFORTUNATE WOMAN. TREAT HER AS ONE OF YOUR SISTERS. WE WILL RETURN SOME DAY TO PRAY OVER HER GRAVE.



ALL FIVE FOLLOWED BY THEIR LACKEYS TAKE THEIR WAY TO THE TOWN OF BETHUNE AND STOP AT AN INN.

SHALL WE NOT FOLLOW THAT WOMAN? SHE WILL ESCAPE US!

I WILL BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR HER.



NOW GENTLEMEN LET EACH ONE RETIRE TO HIS OWN APARTMENT. I TAKE CHARGE OF EVERYTHING. ONLY, DARTAGNAN, GIVE ME THE PIECE OF PAPER WHICH FELL FROM THAT MAN'S HAT AT ARRAS.

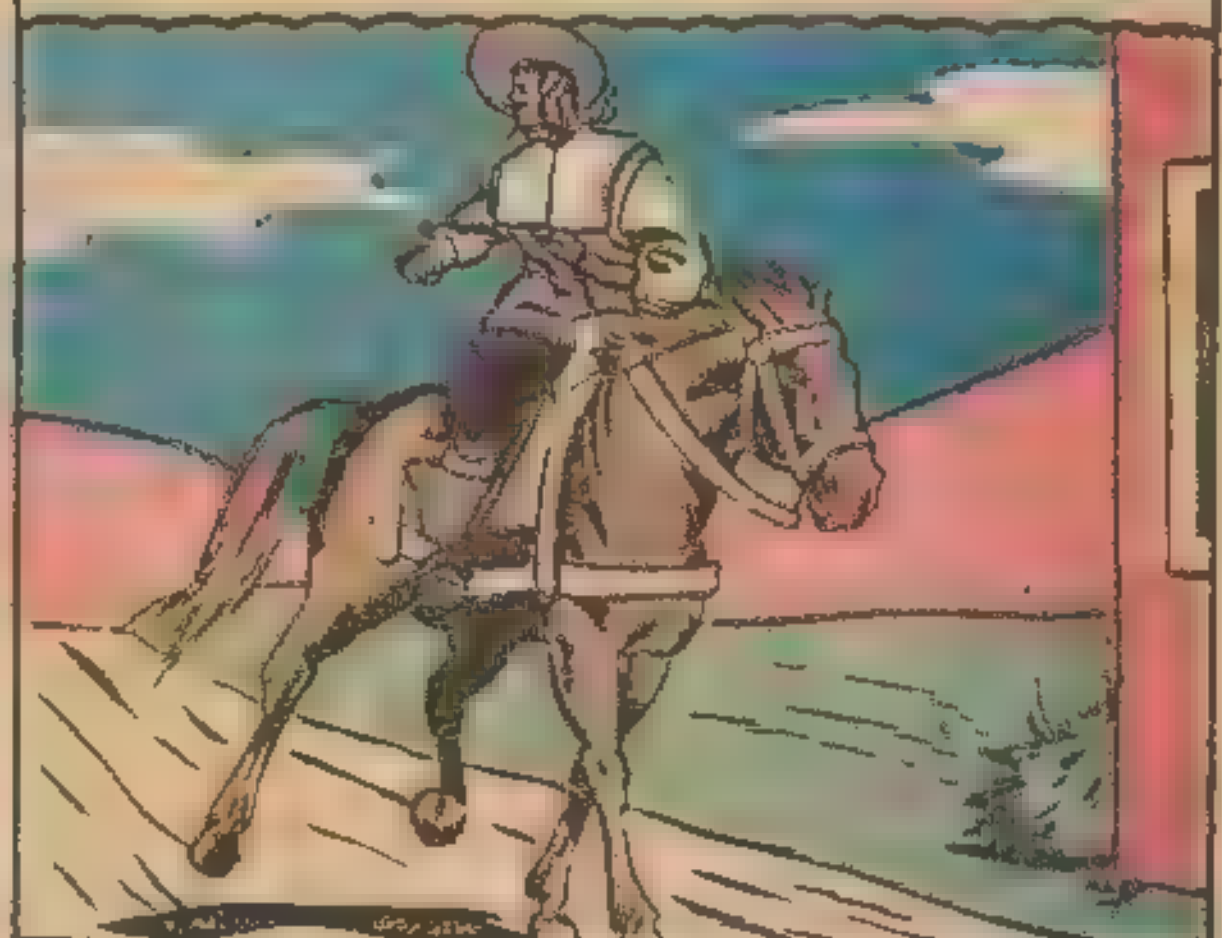


ATHOS CALLS THE LACKEYS AND ISSUES INSTRUCTIONS.

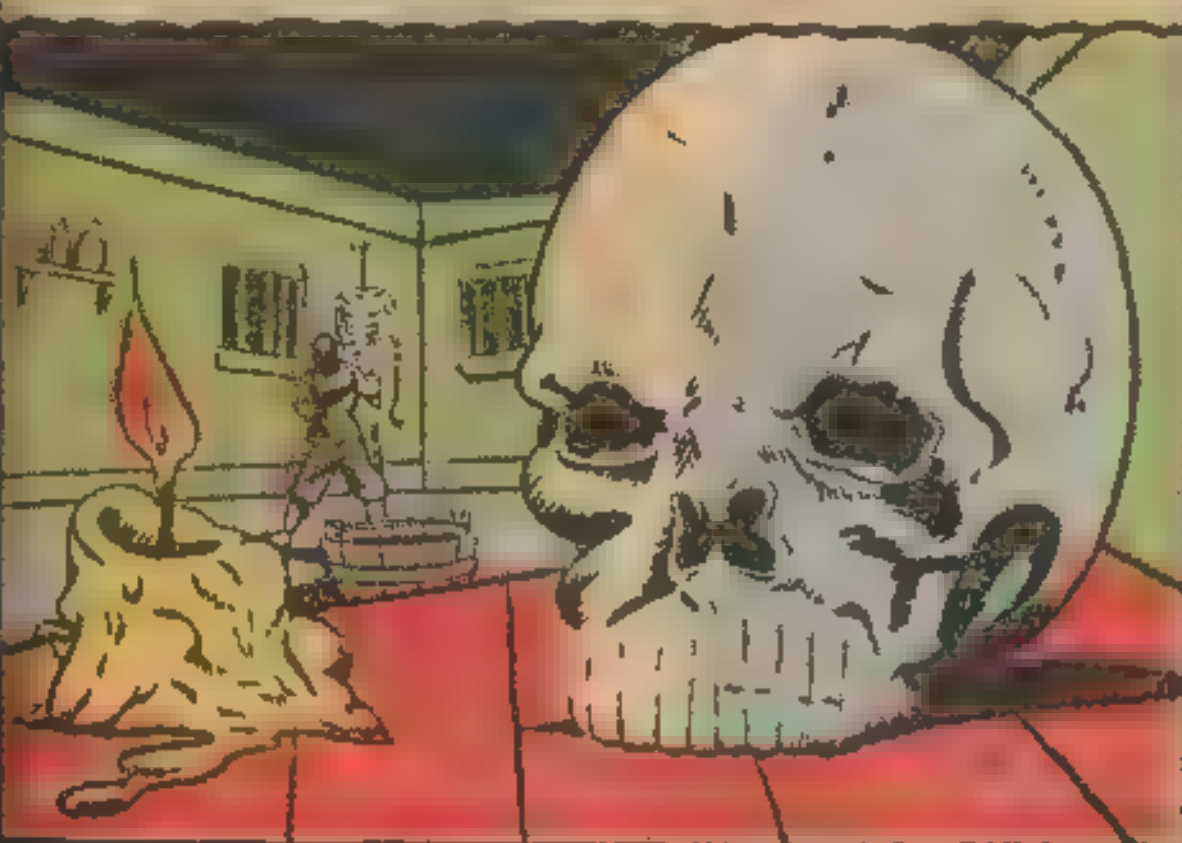
GO TO ARMENTERES; FIND M. LADY. THREE STAY ON GUARD; ONE OF YOU RETURN TO THE ROAD TO DIRECT US.



ATHOS THEN MOUNTS HIS HORSE AND GALLOPS OFF. AFTER A LONG RIDE, HE COMES TO A SOLITARY, GHOSTLIKE HOUSE - DARK AND SILENT AS THE TOMB. HE DISMOUNTS AND ENTERS.



THE MAN WHOM ATHOS HAD COME SO FAR TO SEEK IS ENGAGED IN FASTENING TOGETHER WITH AN IRON WIRE, THE BONES OF A SKELETON. THE SKULL RESTS ON THE TABLE.



THE TWO CONVERSE IN LOW TONES. ATHOS WRITES HIS NAME ON A PAPER AND SHOWS IT TO THE STRANGER.

I AM READY TO OBEY!



ATHOS LEAVES THE STRANGER AND REDES BACK TO THE INN.

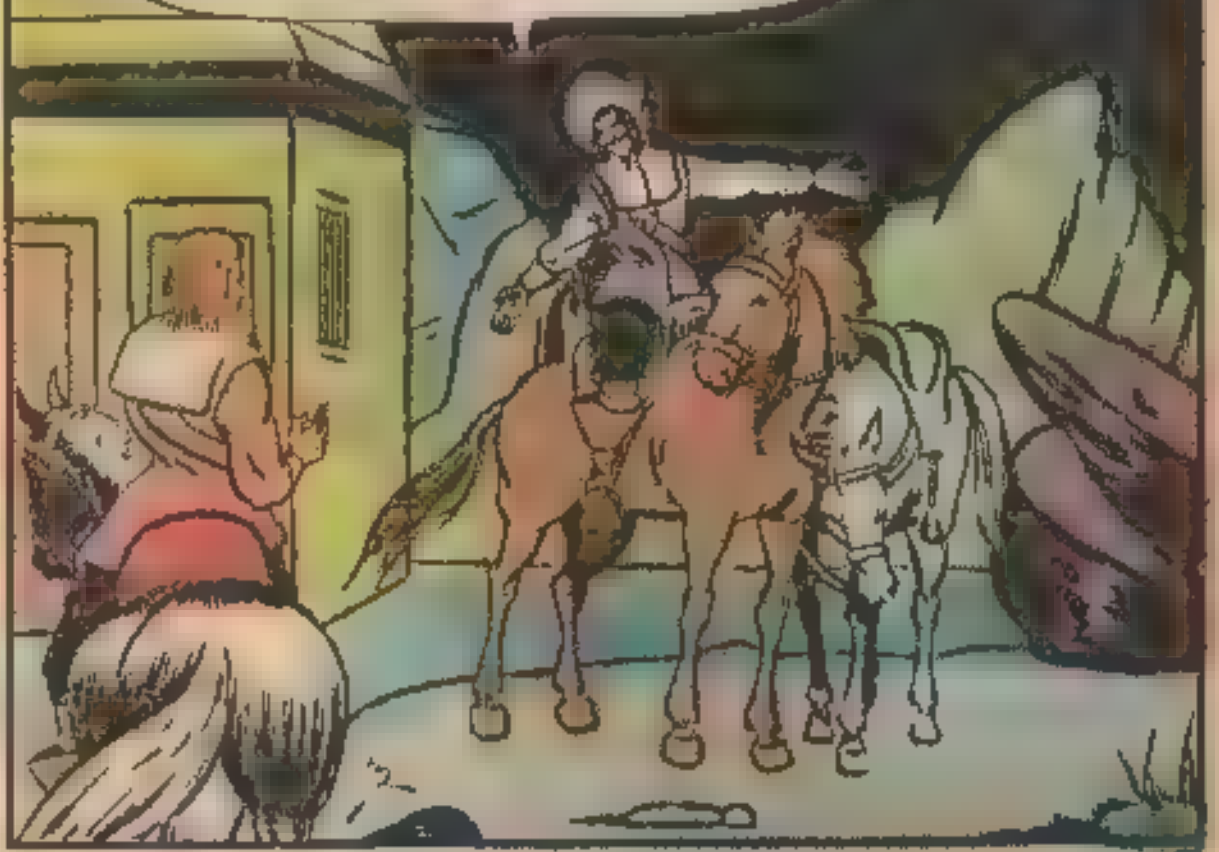
WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

PREPARE YOUR EQUIPMENT FOR AN EXPEDITION.



EVERYONE EXAMINES HIS ARMS AND PUTS THEM IN ORDER. THE HORSES ARE SADDLED AND MOUNTED.

PATIENCE! ONE OF OUR PARTY IS STILL WANTING!



ATHOS LEAPS LIGHTLY INTO THE SADDLE OF HIS HORSE AND GALLOPS OFF.

WAIT FOR ME — I WILL SOON BE BACK!



IN A QUARTER OF AN HOUR HE RETURNS, ACCOMPANIED BY A TALL MAN, MASKED AND ENVELOPED IN A LARGE RED CLOAK..

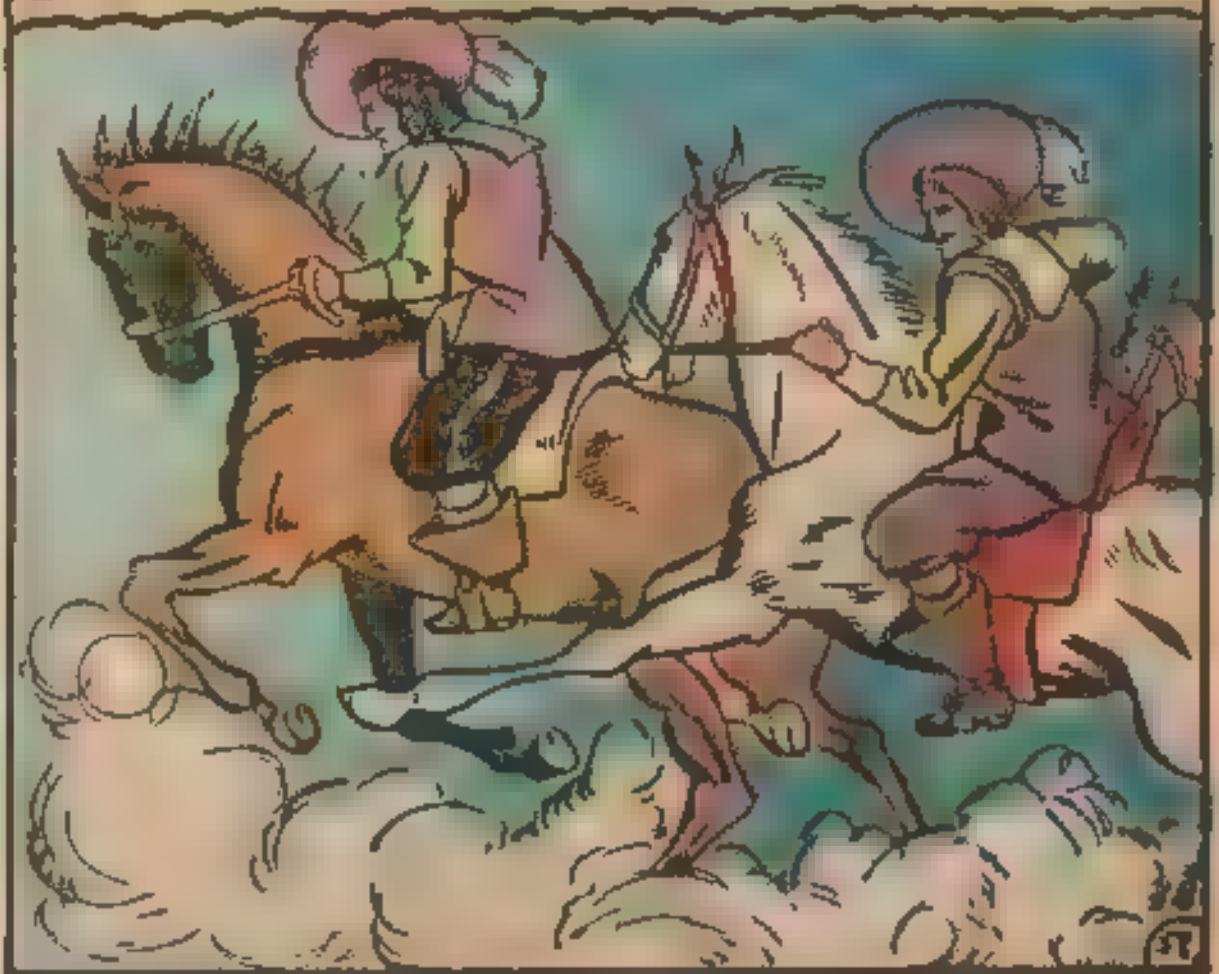


WITHOUT EXPLAINING THE PRESENCE OF THE STRANGER TO THE OTHERS, ATHOS TAKES COMMAND.

GENTLEMEN, FOLLOW ME!



THE GRIM CAVALCADE RIDES OFF INTO THE NIGHT.



CLASSICS Illustrated

SUDDENLY GRIMAUD APPEARS BEFORE THEM AND BECKONS TO ATHOS.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? HAS SHE LEFT ARMENTIERES?

YES.

WHERE IS SHE?

WITHIN HALF A LEAGUE, IN THE DIRECTION OF RIVER LYS.

THAT IS WELL. LEAD US ON!

THE PARTY FOLLOWS GRIMAUD.

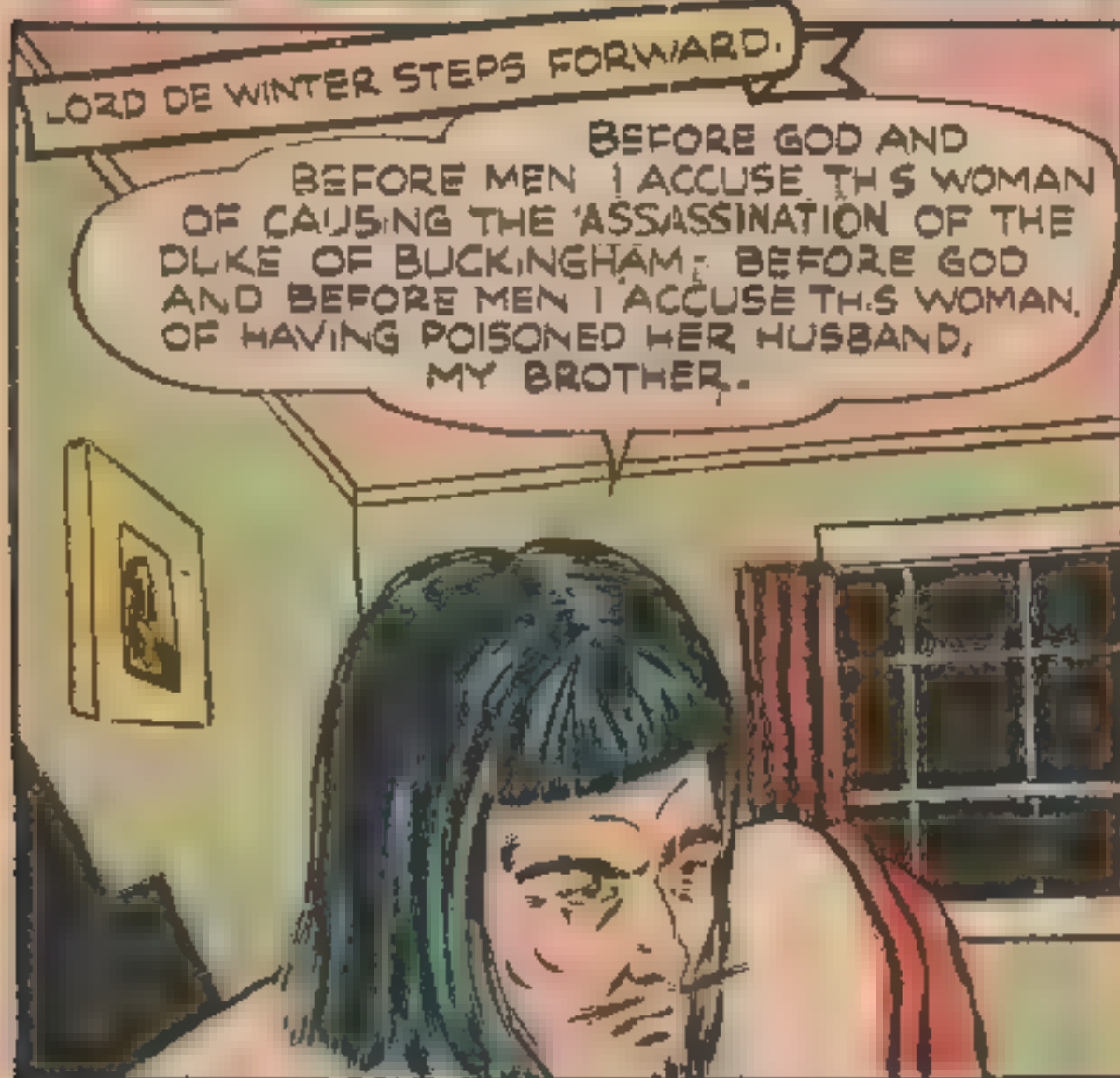
THERE IS A FLASH OF LIGHTNING AND BY THE BLUE SPLENDOR OF THE SERPENT OF FIRE THEY DISTINGUISH A LITTLE HOUSE ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER.

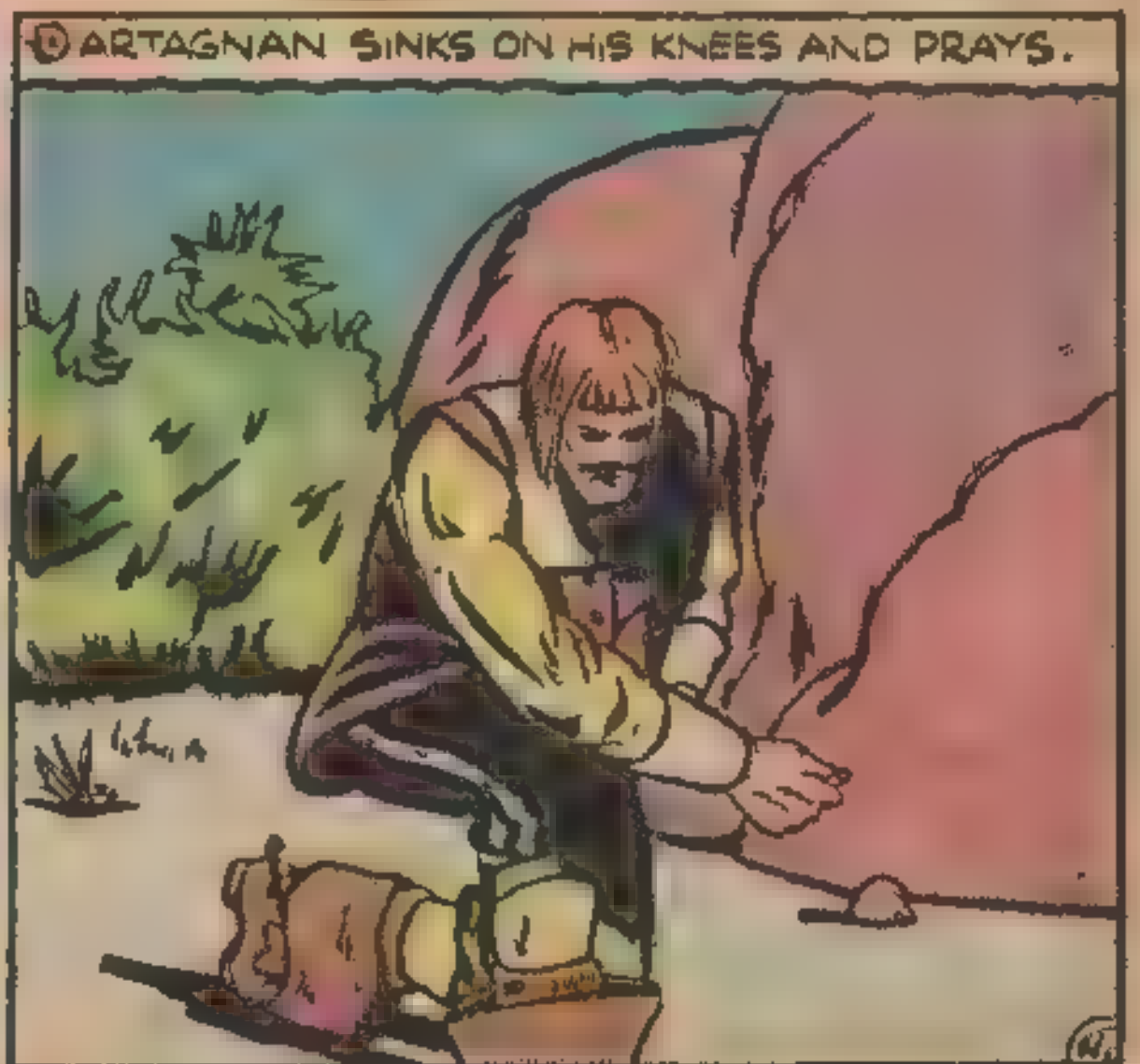
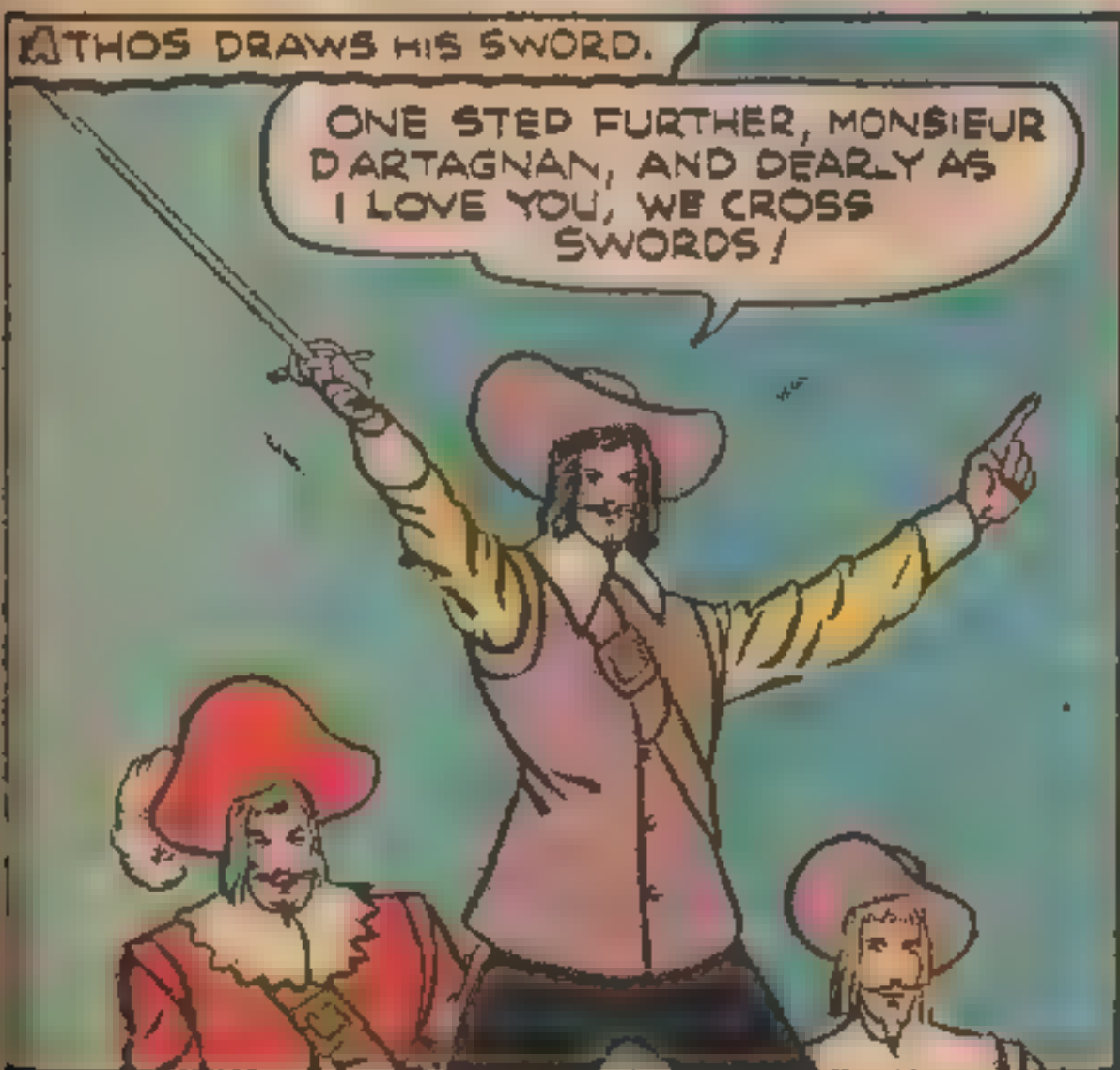
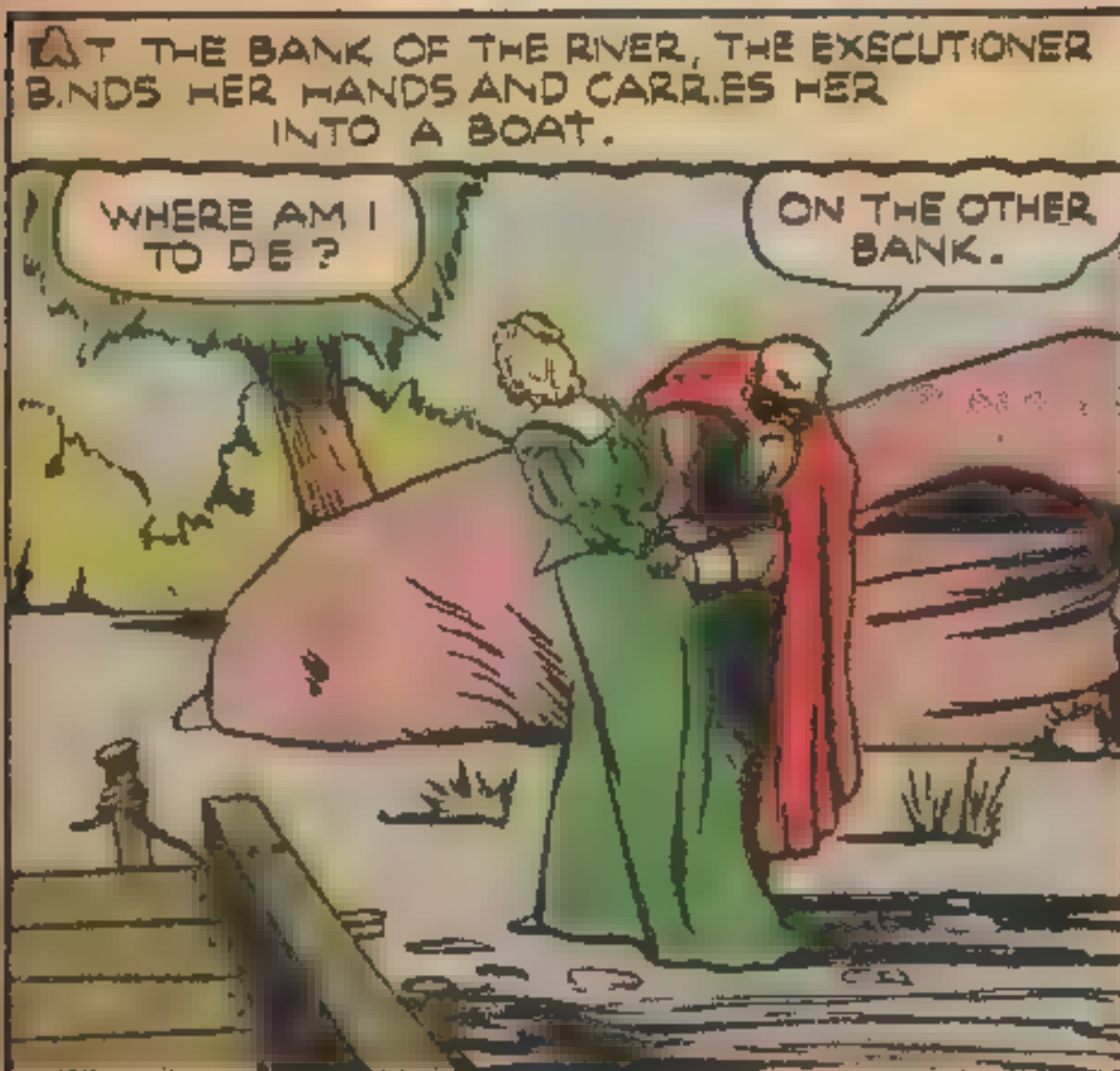


ATHOS DISMOUNTS AND GOES TO THE WINDOW. HE SEES MILADY SEATED BEFORE THE DYING EMBERS OF A FIRE.



A HORSE NEIGHS AND MILADY RAISES HER HEAD. ATHOS SMASHES THE WINDOW AND LIKE THE SPECTER OF VENGEANCE, SPRINGS INTO THE ROOM. THE OTHERS BURST THROUGH THE DOOR.

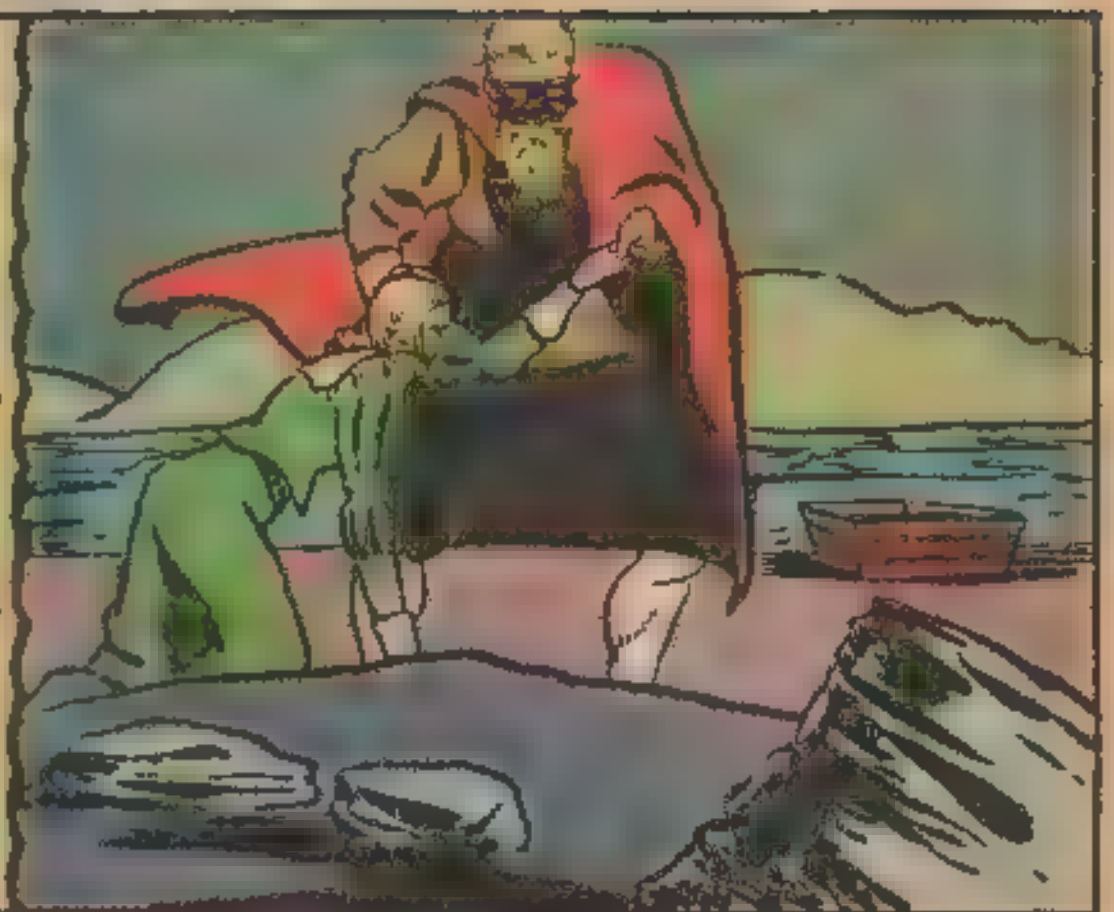




THE BOAT GLIDES TO THE OTHER BANK. MILADY, DURING HER PASSAGE, HAS CONTRIVED TO UNLACE THE CORD THAT BOUND HER FEET.

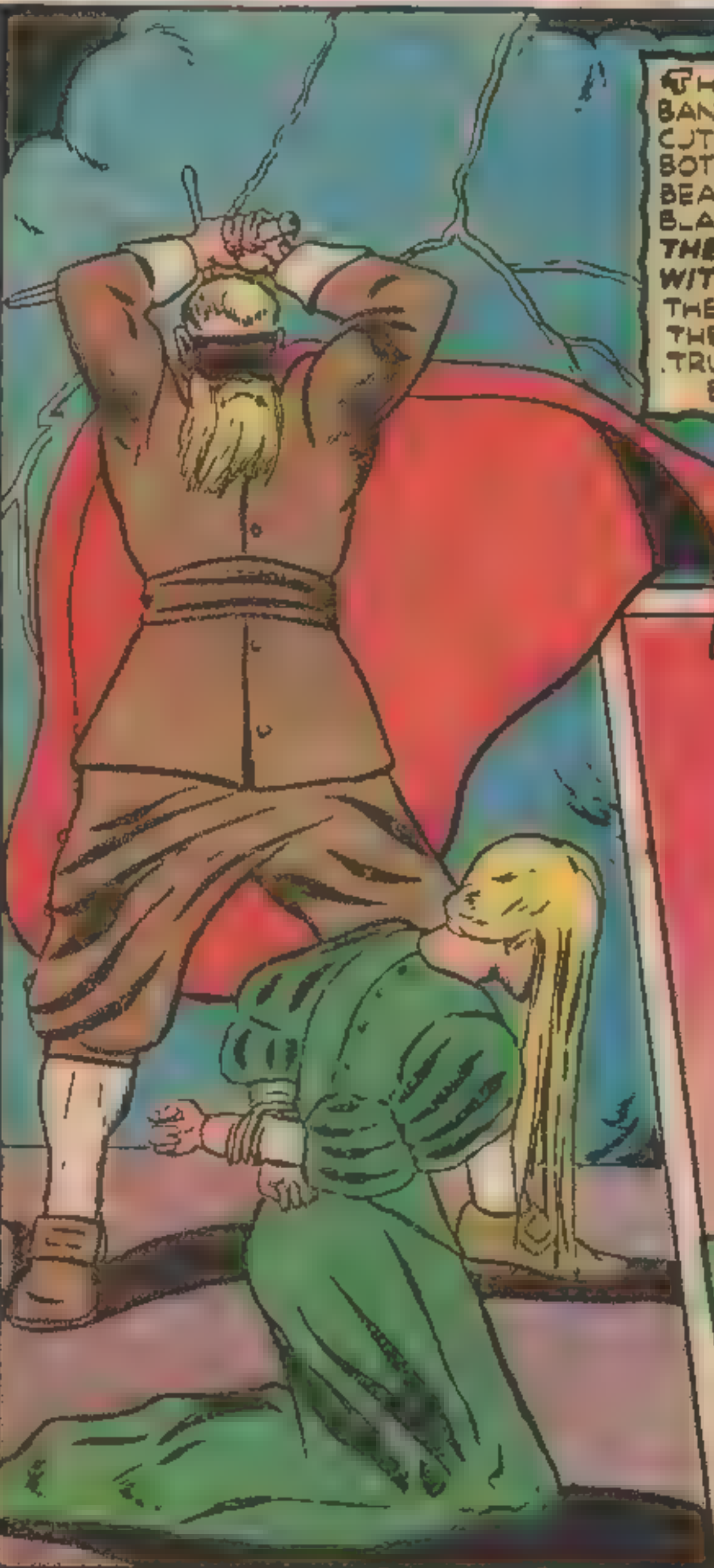


WHEN THE BOAT REACHES THE BANK, MILADY JUMPS LIGHTLY ON SHORE AND TAKES TO FLIGHT. BUT THE SOIL IS MOIST: SHE SLIPS AND FALLS ON HER KNEES.



THEN, FROM THE OTHER BANK, THEY SEE THE EXECUTIONER SLOWLY RAISE BOTH HIS ARMS. A MOON-BEAM FALLS UPON THE BLADE OF THE LARGE SWORD. THE TWO ARMS FALL WITH A SUDDEN FORCE. THEY HEAR THE CRY OF THE VICTIM, THEN A TRUNCATED MASS SINKS BENEATH THE BLOW.

MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON HER SOUL. THOUGH SHE WAS A DEMON ON EARTH AND BLASTED MY FUTURE, I FORGIVE HER. NOW THAT JUSTICE HAS BEEN DONE, LET US BE OFF!



The End

HOMEWARD BOUND TO PARIS, WHERE THEY ARE FATED TO BE FORGIVEN BY THE CARDINAL BECAUSE OF THEIR VALOR. DARTAGNAN AWARDED WITH A CAPTAINCY; SPIRITUAL ARAMIS TO ENTER A MONESTARY; BIG BLUFF PORTHOS TO TAKE A BRIDE AND ATHOS TO CONTINUE HIS CHARMING, HAPPY-GO-LUCKY LIFE.

INTERESTING HIGHLIGHTS IN THE LIFE OF ALEXANDRE DUMAS



In 1760, Davy de la Pailleterie, a French nobleman led by love of adventure, set sail for San Domingo and settled on that island. He lived, like a potentate, surrounded by black slaves. There his son Thomas Alexandre was born. His mother, Louise-Cesette Dumas had been a slave. Later Davy de la

Pailleterie grew homesick and returned to France taking with him his mulatto son.

The boy was eager for adventure and when he came of age enlisted in the French Army under his mother's name — Thomas-Alexandre Dumas. There he made his way in the grand manner. He became a general under Napoleon Bonaparte.

Although a brilliant soldier, he was a poor politician, lost favor with Napoleon and was imprisoned. Broken in health and disgraced, he settled in the village of Villers-Cotterets and married Marie Labouret. And then on July 24, 1802, Alexandre Dumas was born. Alexandre had a fair skin, light hair and blue eyes.

Alexandre's father died in 1806, leaving the family penniless. Poverty had little effect on young Dumas. He was a happy, carefree child, full of boundless energy. Madame Dumas entrusted his schooling to the local priest who was to teach him the rudiments. But Alexandre learned not at all toward letters and even less toward mathematics; he never got beyond the multiplication tables. He loved to play in the woods, to imitate the birds and hunt and fish. His only accomplishment was his handwriting; Alexandre could write beautifully.

When he was twelve years old, he went to work as a notary's clerk, copying long documents in his beautiful hand. But the work got on his nerves; the uproar of Paris echoed even to the provinces and young Dumas kissed his mother good-by and set out for conquest of the capital.

Dumas got a job as a clerk at twelve hundred francs a year in the offices of the Duke of Orleans. Although this was barely enough to keep him alive, he plunged into the life of Paris. One of his neighbors was a charming woman, Catherine Leboy. He married her and had a son, Alexandre the younger.

But Dumas was not the man to despair. Since he could not earn enough at the office to support his family, he would write for the theatre, a sure highway to fortune.

Dumas began to move in the literary circle. He

met Victor Hugo, the poet Lamartine, Vigny and other rising young writers. The old classical school was distasteful to Dumas. His approach to writing was entirely new. He was one of the first of the Romanticists.

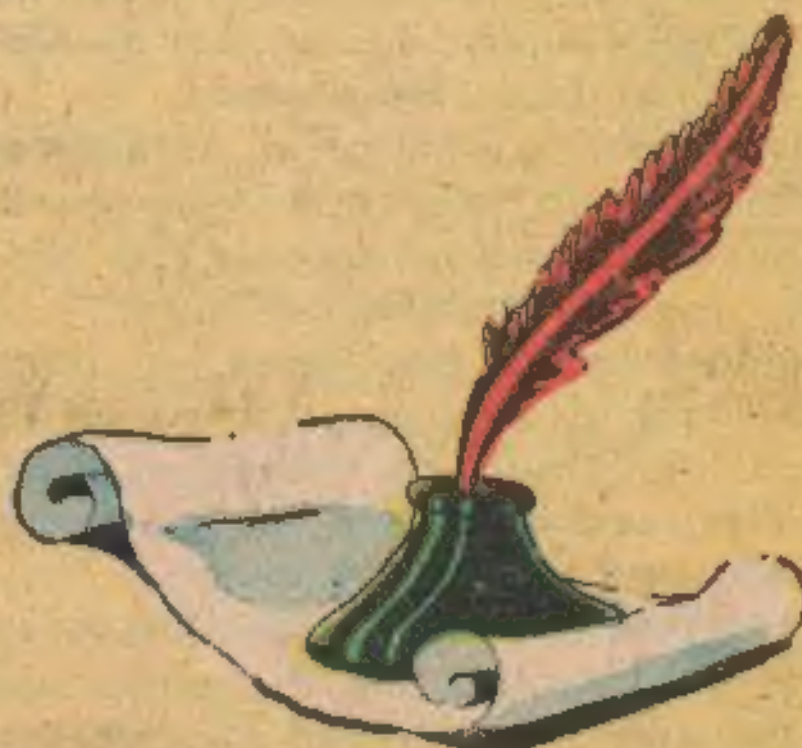
After a while, criticism had its chance. Conservative journals attacked his work, calling it a monstrosity. Classical authors charged him with plagiarism and the French Academy denounced the effect his works would have on the theater.

To no effect. Alexandre had fired the public imagination and he was their hero, a status which he accepted as though born to the role—as indeed he was.

It has been said that Alexandre Dumas was the fourth musketeer. The characters of D'Artagnan, Athos, Porthos and Aramis are merely facets, reflecting the character of the author. During political riots caused by the ascension to the throne of Louis Philippe, the Duke of Orleans, Dumas put on his hunting outfit, seized his gun and like D'Artagnan, threw himself into the scrimmage. But he could not fit himself to a subordinate rôle. He must play a star part; and as powder was needed in Paris, he offered to go to Soissons and get some. It was a confidential mission which he carried out magnificently—exactly as he had D'Artagnan carry out the mission of the queen's diamond studs.

Fearful of slipping into obscurity, he wrote "Anthony" which exceeded the success of Henry III.

Dumas was now making money but had an astonishing capacity for spending it. He lived like a king but was always in debt. He traveled to Switzerland, Rome, Germany. At home he kept open table. Luncheon lasted for five hours, for new guests were constantly coming in, and as they arrived, the cook had to run out for more food. He was never formal, he received rich and poor, fellow countrymen and foreigners with the same cordiality.





Romanticism was falling into a decline. The public, wearied of excess, disorder and violence was finding a new charm in law and order. Dumas, though still earning money, was hard hit. He was collecting failures. His plays were severely handled by the critics. He had a knack for taking poor plays by obscure authors and turning them into brilliant pieces. Naturally he was accused of plagiarism.

Dumas was forty years old. One day he was visited by a professor of literature, Auguste Maquet. He was a resourceful fellow, this Maquet. He knew history and had ideas. Alexandre, who until then had written only a half dozen novels, liked to have people bring him subjects and themes to develop. Maquet brought the material still in crude form and roughly sketched, the magician refashioned it and speeded it up. Thus an amazing partnership was born although Maquet's name never appeared on the finished work.

Thus in 1844, Dumas, with Maquet's material, turned out "The Three Musketeers"—a masterpiece of romantic literature as eagerly read today as then.

Dumas went to the country to work in peace. Maquet supplied the material and Dumas supplied the ideas, inserted episodes to fill out the action and invented complications, plots. They worked on a dozen stories at once, functioning like a machine. Dumas invested his characters with his own zeal for life and relish for adventure.

The Three Musketeers was a universal success read by young and old alike. Dumas' popularity was tremendous. He plunged into other novels, e.g., *La Reine Margot*; *Le Chevalier de Maison-Rouge*; *Le Vicomte de Bragelonne*.

Dumas, in the course of a Mediterranean cruise, had passed near a little island called Monte-Cristo. The name appealed to him and he wrote "The Count of Monte-Cristo."

Alexandre's success embittered his critics. He was continually assailed on all sides. But Dumas took it all in his stride. He showed no anger, no rancor. He freely acknowledged Maquet as his collaborator and enumerated the works they had written together. Without Dumas, the collaborators were worthless. He was the genius who unfolded the story smoothly and effortlessly.

Only a man of Alexandre's extravagance could have spent the money which his novels were bringing in. He built a chateau at Saint-Germain which cost two hundred and fifty thousand francs and filled it with art treasures. He built his own theater at a cost of a million and a half francs. He was living like a prince. The parasites swarmed all over him, picking him clean. Only the success of his plays in his theater kept him going.

The fall of the Duke of Orleans and the rise of Louis Napoleon brought about a new taste in drama and Dumas was again in poverty. Unable to save money, drained of what he had by his friends, he lost his chateau and theater to his creditors. Bailiffs hounded him and to seek peace from them, he went to Brussels.

After a few years, he returned to Paris. He was fifty-two years old. To re-establish himself, he founded a newspaper (more of a family journal) and called it appropriately enough "The Musketeer." It started off well but soon foundered under the weight of an over-staffed payroll. Dumas again took to wandering. This time to Russia and Italy.

At Naples, he joined Garibaldi as an intimate adviser. After the successful revolution he was howled out of Italy by the mob. Dumas, wounded to the soul by this ingratitude, returned to Paris.

Dumas' son, Alexandre the younger, however, was a success in his own right. Dumas lived the remainder of his life with his son and died December 5, 1870. His critics have passed, his popularity remains. He became a soldier in order to take part in street fights, he commanded a legion, he fought twenty duels and as many lawsuits, chartered ships and distributed pensions from his private purse. He danced, hunted, loved, fished, hypnotized, cooked, made ten millions and spent much more—as Victor Hugo wrote: "... What he had sowed is the French idea."



FREE! FREE! FREE!

40 OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST
COMIC STRIP CHARACTERS IN

TATTOOS

(also known as Transfers or Decalcomanias)

are yours **FREE** with a subscription
for only 10 coming issues of

CLASSICS *Illustrated*

YOU'LL have a barrel of fun with these tattoos. POPEYE, WIMPY, OLIVE OIL, SWEET PEA, BLONDIE, DAGWOOD, COOKIE, ZARKOV, THE KATZENJAMMER KIDS, JIGGS and MAGGIE, BARNEY GOOGLE, THE PHANTOM and many more of your favorite comic personalities come to life in colorful reproductions. They are easily applied on your hand, wrist, arms, legs, books, glasses or any other articles of smooth surface.

DON'T DELAY! SUBSCRIBE NOW!

for 10 coming issues of **\$1.50**
CLASSICS Illustrated for

and receive **ABSOLUTELY FREE**

40 TATTOOS

of your favorite comic
strip characters in full color.

TO SUBSCRIBE
FOR
CLASSICS
Illustrated
PLEASE USE
THIS BLANK
OR FACSIMILE

GILBERTON CO., INC. 101 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

Herewith is \$_____ Enter my subscription for _____
issues of **CLASSICS Illustrated** to be sent postpaid as issued. I am
also to receive 40 Tattoos absolutely **FREE**.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zone No. _____ State _____

READ THE BEST IN THE WORLD'S FINEST JUVENILE PUBLICATION



CLASSICS *Illustrated*

MAKE YOUR SELECTION FROM THESE
THRILLING - EXCITING - ROMANTIC
ADVENTURE STORIES.

THEY'RE ONLY **15¢** EACH POSTPAID

- | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. The Three Musketeers | 29. The Prince and the Pauper | 70. The Pilat | 108. Knights of the Round Table |
| 2. Ivanhoe | 31. The Black Arrow | 72. The Oregon Trail | 112. Kit Carson |
| 3. The Count of Monte Cristo | 32. Lorna Doone | 75. The Lady of the Lake | 113. How I Found Livingstone |
| 4. The Last of the Mohicans | 37. The Pioneers | 76. The Prisoner of Zenda | 116. The Bottle Imp |
| 5. Moby Dick | 39. Jane Eyre | 77. The Iliad | 119. Soldiers of Fortune |
| 6. A Tale of Two Cities | 42. Swiss Family Robinson | 78. Joan of Arc | 120. The Hurricane |
| 7. Robin Hood | 44. Kidnapped | 79. Cyrano de Bergerac | 121. Wild Bill Hickock |
| 10. Robinson Crusoe | 47. Twenty Thousand Leagues
Under the Sea | 80. White Fang | 122. The Mutineers |
| 12. Rip Van Winkle and
The Headless Horseman | 48. David Copperfield | 83. The Jungle Book | 123. Fang and Claw |
| 15. Uncle Tom's Cabin | 50. The Adventures of
Tom Sawyer | 85. The Sea Wolf | 124. The War of the Worlds |
| 17. The Deerslayer | 51. The Spy | 86. Under Two Flags | 125. The Ox-Bow Incident |
| 18. The Hunchback of
Notre Dame | 52. The House of the Seven Gables | 91. The Call of the Wild | 126. The Downfall |
| 19. Huckleberry Finn | 55. Silas Marner | 96. Daniel Boone | 127. The King of the Mountains |
| 22. The Pathfinder | 57. The Song of Hiawatha | 97. King Solomon's Mines | 128. Macbeth |
| 23. Oliver Twist | 58. The Prairie | 98. The Red Badge of Courage | 129. Davy Crockett |
| 24. A Connecticut Yankee in
King Arthur's Court | 62. Western Stories | 99. Hamlet | 130. Caesar's Conquests |
| 26. Frankenstein | 64. Treasure Island | 100. Mutiny on the Bounty | 131. The Covered Wagon |
| 27. The Adventures of
Marco Polo | 65. Benjamin Franklin | 101. William Tell | 132. The Dark Frigate |
| 28. Michael Strogoff | 67. The Scottish Chiefs | 103. Men Against the Sea | 133. The Time Machine |
| | 69. Around the World in
Eighty Days | 104. Bring 'Em Back Alive | 134. Romeo and Juliet |
| | | 105. From the Earth to the Moon | |
| | | 106. Buffalo Bill | |
| | | 107. King-of the Khyber Rifles | |

MAIL COUPON BELOW OR A FACSIMILE

GILBERTON CO., INC. DEPT. S. 101 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 3, N. Y.
IN CANADA: GILBERTON CO. (CANADA) LTD., 311 TERMINAL "A" TORONTO 1

Herewith is \$_____ for _____ issues of CLASSICS Illustrated as circled below:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	10	12	15	17	18	19	22	23	24	26	27	28	29	31	32
37	39	42	46	47	48	50	51	52	55	57	58	62	64	65	67	68	69	70	72		
75	76	77	78	79	80	82	83	85	86	91	96	97	98	99	100	101	103	104	105		
106	107	108	112	115	116	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129					
130	131	132	133	134																	

Name _____

(Please print)

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____